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SILVER SECOND CHANCE

Canada's Denny Morrison celebrates his silver medal win during the flower ceremony for the men's 1,000-metre speedskate in Sochi on Wednesday. Morrison's silver came with a feel-good success story for Canada: he fell during the Canadian trials and didn't qualify for Sochi. Teammate Gilmore Junio stepped aside so Morrison could compete. Full story, page 33. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THREE TO WATCH

- **12 p.m.** Sidney Crosby and the rest of Team Canada open their Olympic title defence against Norway.
- **7:05 a.m.** Marianne St-Gelais could be vying for another medal in women's 500-metre short track.
- **9 a.m.** Reigning champ Christine Nesbitt races in the 1,000-metre long track speedskate. **GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO**

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Hey, city staff! The jerk store called ...

Boorish behaviour. Ombudsman says that rudeness may be result of increased workload

An "unacceptable" level of rudeness toward the public by city bureaucrats is becoming a worrisome trend, says City of Toronto ombudsman Fiona Crean.

In unveiling her 2013 annual report at city hall on Wednesday, Crean said 70 per cent of the 1,827 complaints her office fielded included allegations of poor communications and inadequate information provided by city staff.

"It's not returning phone calls; it's rudeness; it's problems that need fixing in a timely fashion such as basement flooding, where no responses are occurring or little to no explanation is provided," Crean told reporters.

City agencies that drew the most complaints included Toronto Community Housing, the Toronto Transit Commission and bylaw inspectors working for municipal licensing and standards.

It may be that city workers' bad behaviour is due to stress, she said, noting that some 2,540 civil-service jobs have been left vacant.

"There's no question that resources are tight," she said. "The stress is tremendous, but there's never an excuse for poor communication."

Crean said she has been speaking with City Manager Joe Pennachetti about how to crack down on rudeness.

At the same time, Crean said complainants are becoming more hostile. Crean said she has detected a new level of desperation among Torontonians, including people who have lost jobs and housing.

The increase in complaints overall, up 28 per cent from 2012, may reflect "growing social inequality" in Toronto, she said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Your honour, the defence is down to clown

Legal types to don silly wigs for access to justice PAGE 6

She's got a ticket to ride — or does she?

TTC explains how to spot a counterfeit Metropass PAGE 4

World cannot keep saying 'never again'

Amnesty, UN chief ramp up rhetoric over C.A.R. PAGE 13

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Changes urged in police dealings with mentally ill

Coroner's inquest. 74 recommendations made after officers' fatal shootings of people in distress

The sister of a mentally ill woman killed by police says that new recommendations made in a coroner's inquest might have saved her life.

Quoted

"When officers are dealing with a situation in which a person in crisis has an edged or other weapon, the officers should, when feasible ... try to communicate with the person by verbally offering help and understanding." Written statement from coroner's inquest jury

Sylvia Klibingaitis, 52, Michael Eligon, 29, and Reyal Jardine-Douglas, 25, all had mental-health disorders and were holding knives or scissors when they were shot by police. An inquest into their deaths spanned three months.

The jury returned Wednesday with 74 recommendations, including that officers should consider mental state, not just behaviour, when a person is advancing with a sharp weapon. Currently, officers are trained to react to behaviour when they face an "imminent threat," regardless of whether the person is in crisis.

"It is beyond my wildest dreams that I ever thought I would be in a situation where one of my family members was in crisis and would be killed, especially Sylvia," said Anita Wasowicz, her sister. "She was a very kind, loving person."

The jury returned a verdict of homicide in all three cases, which in an inquest means another person's actions caused the death but does not carry any criminal implications.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crime

Severe trauma killed boy, court hears

Heavy and repeated blows bruised a 10-year-old boy's head, blackened his eye, cracked his rib and caused widespread internal bleeding in the moments before his death, Ontario's top forensic pathologist testified Wednesday.

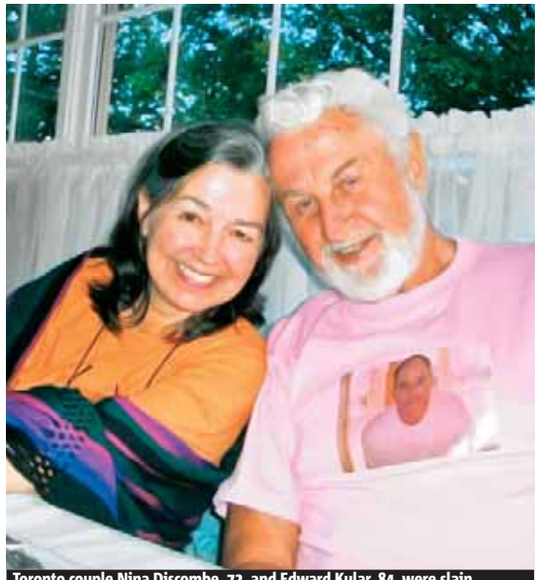
That "extensive blunt-impact trauma" was the "primary fatal injury" in Shakeil Boothe's case, Dr. Michael Pollanen told a Toronto-area court.

Shakeil was found dead in his bed on May 27, 2011. Prosecutors allege he had been abused and starved for months, kept chained to his bed except when he needed to use the bathroom or relatives were present.

His father, Garfield Boothe, and stepmother, Nichelle Boothe-Rowe, are both charged with second-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arrest made in couple's slaying



Toronto couple Nina Discombe, 72, and Edward Kular, 84, were slain in Mexico. FACEBOOK

A man has been arrested in connection with the murder of a Toronto couple living in Mexico.

Julio Cesar Castello Casellas, 31, is in custody after Nina Discombe, 72, and Edward Kular, 84, were found dead in their home in Ajijic on Sunday, Jalisco Attorney General Luis Carlos Najera confirmed.

Police are still searching for Castello's brother, Angel De Jesus, 22, a construction worker working on a home behind Discombe and Kular's.

Najera said De Jesus told Castello that the couple had recently bought a large-screen TV and the two decided to steal it.

Police believe it was a robbery gone wrong, as Castello said he and De Jesus thought the couple would be sleeping.

The stolen property has been located but Najera said he is waiting on a judge's order before it can be recovered.

Castello has a criminal record of house robberies and was released recently from prison, Najera said.

He said detectives are being dispatched to neighbouring states to search for De Jesus, who is still on the run.

The grisly scene was first discovered by the couple's gardener, who found the pair lying in a pool of blood in the living room, according to Roberto Arroyo, a spokesperson for the city of Chapala. The couple lived in the home for about six months.

Arroyo said it appeared Kular had been beaten on the head with a small statue and Discombe was stabbed in the stomach with a kitchen knife.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
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Take a pass on discount TTC goods, cops say

'Buyer beware.'
Sixty-two arrested in connection with fake Metropasses

Toronto police and transit officials are warning transit riders to beware of buying discount-priced TTC passes.

The caution follows the arrest of 62 people facing 196 fraud and counterfeit trafficking charges in connection with fake Metropasses. Fifty-five of those arrests are related to using a counterfeit pass to ride the TTC.

"It's buyer beware. If a deal sounds too good to be true — for example a $50 Metropass for sale online — then that deal probably is too good to be true," said TTC spokesman Brad Ross at a Wednesday press conference at Toronto police headquarters. Of those charged with allegedly using phony passes, all "absolutely" knew they were using a fake, said Toronto police Const. Robert Moynagh.

The passes were seized at 39 subway stations, the largest seizure occurring at the Scarborough Town Centre, and on 16 bus routes. The routes and stations were in different areas of the city, he said.

The investigation is continuing, said Moynagh, who told reporters that police believe the fake passes — which sell for about half the $133.75 face value — are being made locally.

Ross said the TTC won't be adding new security features or requiring customers to swipe every time they enter a station now, because the transit system is so close to launching the Presto electronic fare system.

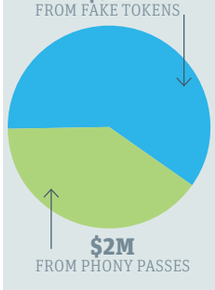
Presto will begin rolling out this year on Toronto's new streetcars, requiring proof of payment from all riders. The TTC also plans to hire an additional 20 fare enforcement officers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Magnetic stripe

Although counterfeit passes appear identical to real ones, there are differences, said TTC staff sergeant Mark Russell, starting with the magnetic stripe that moves the turnstiles in subway stations. The stripe has never been compromised, so collectors keep an eye out for riders who flash their pass rather than swiping it.

Lost revenue

$5 MILLION
THE TTC ESTIMATES IT LOSES ABOUT $5 MILLION ANNUALLY TO FRAUDULENT FARES



Spotting a fake:

TTC staff sergeant Mark Russell holds up confiscated fake Metropasses Thursday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

$2,000

The cost to buy equipment capable of making counterfeit passes. "Any device that can print on plastic card stock is capable of doing it," Russell said, noting "the hologram is a different story ... It's common knowledge that I could send a sample of this hologram overseas and get a million of them."

Type and finish

Authentic passes are glossy on one side and have a matte finish on the back. The type on the serial number and price is also slightly raised. None of the counterfeit passes seized by police since the joint TTC investigation began in October have those features.

Hologram

In 2009, the TTC introduced a hologram on the front of the passes to thwart counterfeiters. But within two years, fakes were being spotted.

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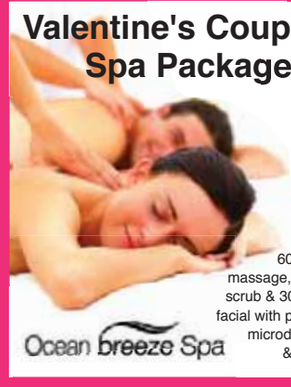

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Lawyers don clown wigs for justice

Fundraiser. In support of non-profits offering help with legal issues

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Have you heard the one about the lawyer who wore a clown wig to court?

It's not a joke. On March 6, some legal professionals and their supporters will be wearing wigs as part of the inaugural Flip Your Wig for Justice fundraiser. The participants have collected pledges through flipyourwigforjustice.ca, which will benefit seven non-profit organizations in Ontario that help people understand their rights and the legal system through education, or provide pro-bono legal assistance.

According to the Flip Your Wig campaign, nearly 12 million Canadians will go through a legal dispute in any three-year period, and most think nothing can be done, don't know what to do, think it will cost too much or are simply afraid of it.

The dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, Lorne Sossin, said the Flip Your Wig campaign and its participants work to fill the gap between the justice people deserve and the justice people can afford.

"Some of those who have the least access (to justice) are those who need it the most: Vulnerable people, children, women in settings of domestic violence, new Canadians who are not in a position to navigate the system," he said.

Several organizations provide timely, accessible information about legal rights and the justice system helping people solve their problem before a lawyer's needed, Sossin said.

Other organizations provide pro-bono counsel if necessary.

"Ultimately the goal of these organizations is to ensure that no one's in that position of being denied fundamental rights," says Sossin.

Sarah McCoubrey and Lorne Sossin spearhead Flip Your Wig for Justice, a fundraiser for non-profits offering help with legal issues. CONTRIBUTED

31 per cent drop

T.O. police ticketed way less last year

Toronto police issued significantly fewer charges under the Highway Traffic Act in 2013 than they did in each of the five previous years, according to data obtained by Torstar News Service from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Statistics show there were 31 per cent fewer charges in 2013 than 2012, or about 131,000 fewer. The drop means possible missed revenues between $6 million and $8 million, says the city's budget chief, Frank Di Giorgio. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

First Nations

First T.O. memorial ceremony for missing women

On Friday, the city will hold its first memorial ceremony for the countless First Nations women who have gone missing or have died brutal deaths.

No reliable database of their names exists, but there might be 600 victims in recent decades, according to records by Sisters in Spirit.

Called a Strawberry Ceremony, it will be held at Toronto police headquarters on College St. at 12:30 p.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blooms for Boobs, a bash to fight breast cancer

Entrepreneur Zark Fatah, from left, Fashion Television host Glen Baxter and designer-model Jano Badovinac show off their self-made bouquets at the Blooms for Boobs event, hosted by Monsouri Living in Toronto Wednesday. The bouquets were auctioned in favour of Rethink Breast Cancer. CONTRIBUTED

Report. Poor urban people die sooner from cancer

Poor urban residents die sooner from cancer, a major report on Canada's cancer system reveals.

The report by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, released Thursday, is the first national analysis to show that people in lower-income areas, as well as in rural and remote communities, may not be accessing the best cancer care.

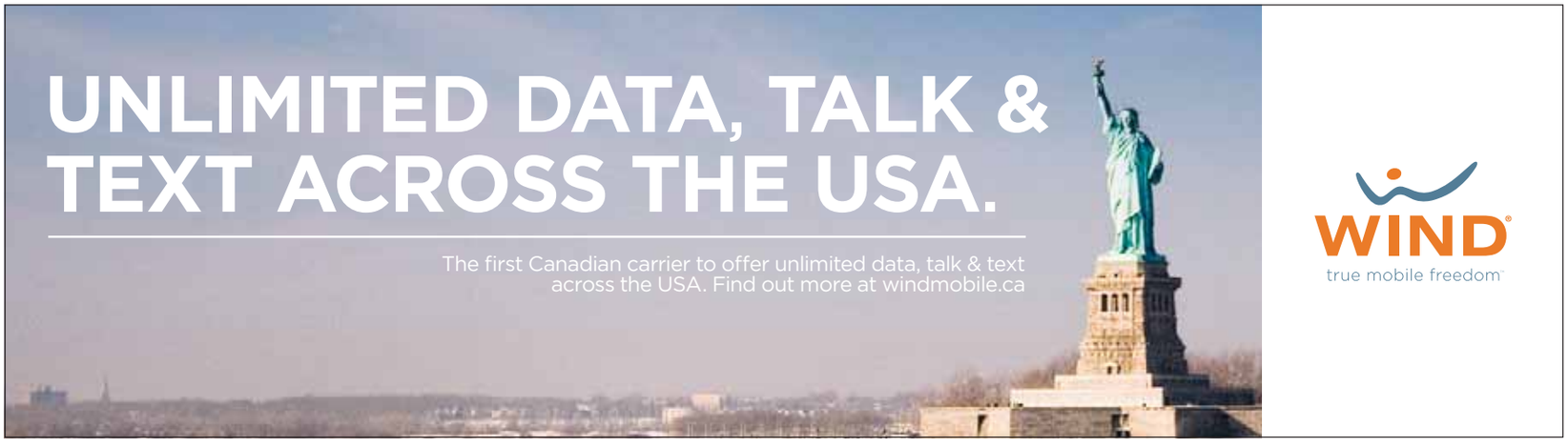
Wealthier urban dwellers have a 73-per-cent chance of surviving their cancers five years after diagnosis compared with 61 per cent of those in poorer urban areas. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transgender. Edison to be removed from Canada

A transgender woman who immigration put in a men-only jail has been denied release and will be removed from Canada Thursday.

Avery Edison, 25, was detained at a male facility in Milton for 20 hours before media reports picked up her tweets online. She was then transferred to a nearby women's facility Tuesday.

Edison was deemed inadmissible to Canada arriving at Pearson airport Monday from her native England because she overstayed her visa in a previous visit. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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Georgia tells Games fans to keep out of Abkhazia

Breakaway territory. The region remains a sticking point between the country and Russia

Georgia on Wednesday called on foreign visitors to the Winter Olympics to keep out of Abkhazia, a Russia-aligned breakaway territory just south of Sochi along the Black Sea coast.

The International Olympic Committee, however, said there was no reason not to go to Abkhazia.

Abkhazia declared independence shortly after Russian forces crushed the Georgian army in a brief 2008 war, but most of the world still considers it Georgian territory. Only Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and two Pacific island nations have recognized Abkhazia as an independent country.

Russia's attempts to facilitate travel across its border with Abkhazia, only five kilometres south of Olympic venues, was "a provocation aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia" and "misleading foreign citizens," the Georgian Foreign Ministry said.

Asked the IOC's view on Olympics visitors going to Abkhazia, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said "why not."

"The talks and exchanges between the two governments, that's entirely been to the two governments," he said. "In terms of going to Abkhazia ... well if it's safe, people will go there."

Alexandra Kosterina, spokeswoman for the Sochi organizers, refused to comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talks

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that he hoped the Games would help to mend fences and expressed a willingness to meet with his Georgian counterpart.

- The Georgian government responded positively.
- Mutual personal enmity had prevented any meeting between Putin and former Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili, whose term ended in November.

Belgium expected to pass bid for child euthanasia

Belgian politicians assemble at the Belgian federal parliament in Brussels Wednesday. Belgium, one of the very few countries where euthanasia is legal, is expected to take the unprecedented step this week of abolishing age restrictions on who can ask to be put to death, extending the right to children. GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Intimidation. Russian activist gets 3 years

An activist who shed the light on the environmental impact of Olympic construction in Sochi was ordered Wednesday to serve three years in prison for spray-painting a fence.

A court in the regional capital of Krasnodar converted the suspended sentence given to Yevgeny Vitishko in 2012 into a prison term, according to his lawyer, Alexander Popkov.

"We expected it and so did Zhenya (Vitishko)," Popkov told The Associated Press, adding that the ruling confirms suspicions that Vitishko is "persecuted for his activities."

Vitishko and another activist, Suren Gazaryan, were found guilty in 2012 of "deliberate destruction of property" for spray-painting the fence of what they said was a local governor's property in a national forest where construction is forbidden.

Human Rights Watch called on the International Olympic Committee to urge Russian authorities to free the activist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria. Extremists attack northeast town

Hundreds of Islamic extremists posing as soldiers attacked a northeast Nigerian town for hours, killing 39 people and razing a mosque and more than 1,000 homes, survivors said Wednesday.

In the ruins of the burned-out mosque, bodies covered in cloth lay ready for burial Wednesday, including three small shrouds covering children who did not look more than 10 years old.

"Why us? Why us?" one woman wailed, trying to understand why militants set on creating an Islamic state in Nigeria would attack a town of mainly Muslim farmers.

Numerous villages in the area have been attacked and hundreds have been killed in recent months despite a nine-month-long military state of emergency to halt the uprising in three northeastern states. Thousands have been made homeless and thousands more have fled to other parts of Nigeria and to neighbouring states. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backpack offers Edmonton mother answers in son's suicide

Jonathan Langille FACEBOOK

Jan Thorpe finally has some answers about her son's death.

Jonathan Langille's backpack was returned to his mother Tuesday, less than a week after the 19-year-old was killed after stepping off the platform in front of an LRT train at Coliseum Station in Edmonton.

Following the accident, Thorpe made a public plea for help finding the backpack, which had been picked up by a bystander who watched as Langille took his own life.

"The girl who took it called us last night," said Thorpe. "She was very sorry about what happened."

In the backpack, Thorpe said, Langille left his journal, which included information about why he took his own life.

"He said he was overwhelmed," she said.

Thorpe said the family doesn't plan on pressing charges against the woman.

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Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in Ottawa Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Income exposes

Tensions. Powerful Tory ministers make contradictory statements on Harper campaign promise — but who spoke out of turn?

Two of the most powerful men in the Conservative cabinet have openly contradicted one another on a key campaign promise — a split that speaks to the different ideologies and allegiances in the Tory caucus.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty started the ball rolling Wednesday by candidly questioning the wisdom of expanding income splitting for Canadian families.

During the 2011 election, Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised to bring in the measure once the federal books were balanced. Allowing couples with children to split their income would mean parents could pool their income together in order to qualify for a lower tax bracket.

"I would pay down public debt and reduce taxes more, myself, but I am only one person," Flaherty said in a post-budget interview before the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce.

But Employment Minister Jason Kenney insisted the campaign promise would be kept, a sentiment echoed by Treasury Board President Tony Clement.

"We made a platform commitment to introduce income splitting when we get to a balanced budget; we'll get to a balanced budget next year, that's very clear," Kenney said.

There was plenty of tea-leaf reading by the time question period rolled around, when the prime minister stood to answer nearly every query on the federal budget, tabled only a day earlier. Flaherty sat

splitting Tory rift

mutely by his side for all but two questions.

For Canadians wondering whether income splitting will be a reality or not, Harper did little to clear things up when asked about the confusion during question period.

"This government, in the last election, made a commitment that when we balance the budget … one of the highest priorities of this government will be tax reduction for Canadian families," he said.

"I know that their plans would be tax hikes on Canadian families, but we believe in this party we should cut taxes for Canadian families."

So who spoke out of turn? Flaherty or Kenney?

One senior Conservative suggested Harper actually has his own reservations about income splitting. Some high-profile analysts have said that it would benefit a small proportion of mostly wealthy families, and not single parents or average working couples.

The Tory suggested social conservatives within the party, such as Kenney and his large support base within caucus, would be more in favour of such a plan because it appeals to traditional families where one parent does not work.

Other Conservatives speculated that Flaherty is feeling free to speak his mind because he has one foot out the door.

When he introduced the budget Wednesday, his wife and three sons were in the public gallery. Later in the day, he gave a vague answer when asked whether he would stick around to deliver another budget.

There have been tensions between Flaherty and Kenney recently over Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Flaherty is a friend of Ford's, and reacted angrily when Kenney called on Ford to step down.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rail safety

Industry group calls for greater safeguards

It's only been a few weeks since Canadian policy-makers announced safety changes to rail cars, but elements within the industry already want to go further.

A U.S. industry association is recommending all new oil-carrying trains be equipped with a puncture-proof metal shell, taller shields and thermal insulation.

Just last month, Canada's Transport Minister Lisa Raitt promised the government would formalize standards for new tank-car construction that were adopted by the industry in October 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa terror case

Reliability of audio transcript questioned

A lawyer for accused terrorist Khurram Syed Sher pressed a police detective Wednesday on the reliability of a transcript of a key meeting between Sher and two alleged co-conspirators.

In Ontario Superior Court, defence lawyer Michael Edelson peppered Det. Mireille Clement with questions about how she prepared the transcription from secret audio surveillance of a discussion at an Ottawa home.

During the July 20, 2010, meeting, Sher seems to express a desire to arrange overseas tactical training through a Pakistani man who claimed to be with the Taliban.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Discussion. North Korean demands manage to stall high-level talks with South Korea

The highest-level talks between the rival Koreas in years ended late Wednesday with little progress because of North Korea's call for the delay of annual military drills between Seoul and Washington set for later this month, officials said.

Seoul officials said the meeting was requested by North Korea, which has launched a recent charm offensive after raising tensions last spring with repeated threats to fire nuclear-tipped missiles against Seoul and Washington.

Later this month, the two Koreas are to hold reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War. It would be the first such reunions in more than three years.

North Korea also demanded South Korea delay the annual military drills set to begin Feb. 24 with the United States until the end of the family reunions, which are scheduled to start Feb. 20 and end five days later, the statement said. South Korea refused, saying it cannot link a purely humanitarian matter to a military issue.

North Korean chief delegate Won Tong Yon, centre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. South crippled by second coming of winter storms

A Georgia Department of Transportation sign warns drivers of winter weather as they travel a bleak section of Highway 141 on Wednesday in Norcross, Ga. The second wintry storm in two weeks to hit the normally balmy U.S. South encrusted highways, trees and power lines in ice, knocking out electricity to more than 350,000 homes and businesses. At least nine traffic deaths across the region were blamed on the treacherous weather.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gay rights. Judge rules that Kentucky must recognize out of state same-sex marriages

U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II concluded Wednesday that Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, striking down part of the state's marriage ban and saying Kentucky's laws treat gays and lesbians differently in a "way that demeans them." The constitutional ban on same-sex marriage was approved by voters in 2004.

"Assigning a religious or traditional rationale for a law does not make it constitutional when that law discriminates against a class of people without other reasons," wrote Heyburn, an appointee of former President George H.W. Bush.

The decision came in lawsuits brought by four gay and lesbian couples seeking to force the state to recognize their out-of-state marriages.

Heyburn did not rule on whether the state could be forced to perform same-sex marriages. The question was not included in the lawsuit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music

Japan's 'Beethoven' not so deaf after all

The man once lauded as Japan's Beethoven said he can partially hear in a new disclosure Wednesday following the stunning revelation last week that his Hiroshima symphony and other famed musical compositions were ghost-written.

In a statement released to the Japanese media through his lawyer, Mamoru Samuragochi said he had regained part of his hearing three years ago. He apologized for the scandal and for failing to explain sooner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Dancing in a beer tent part of the job

A German teacher has won a case for a work-related injury she suffered when she fell off a bench while dancing in a beer tent on a school trip.

In a statement Wednesday the court argued it was "normal and socially appropriate" for beer tent visitors to dance on the benches and that the teacher would have unduly distanced herself from her students if she had refused to participate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After 18 years, Florida boy's killer executed

Juan Carlos Chavez. Murderer given lethal injection in Florida jail despite supreme court appeal

A man has been executed in Florida for raping and killing a 9-year-old boy 18 years ago, a death that spurred the victim's parents to press nationwide for stronger sexual predator confinement laws.

Authorities say 46-year-old Juan Carlos Chavez was pronounced dead at 8:17 p.m. Wednesday after a lethal injection at Florida State Prison.

Chavez abducted Jimmy Ryce at gunpoint after the boy got off a school bus on Sept. 11, 1995, in rural southwestern Miami-Dade County.

Ryce's parents turned the tragedy's pain into a push for stronger U.S. laws regarding confinement of sexual predators and improved police procedures in missing child cases. Their foundation provided hundreds of free canines to law enforcement agencies to aid in searches for children. Don Ryce, Jimmy's father, said if police searching for Jimmy had bloodhounds they might have found him in time.

Last-minute appeals temporarily delayed Wednesday's planned execution as Chavez's most recent round of state and federal court appeals focused on claims that Florida's lethal injection procedure is unconstitutional, that he didn't get due process during clemency hearings and that he should have an execution stay to pursue additional appeals in the federal courts.

The Florida Supreme Court, however, refused Wednesday morning to stay the execution to allow Chavez time to pursue those challenges, and the U.S. Supreme Court followed suit hours later. The appeals prompted a more than two-hour delay in Chavez's execution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lethal injection

Drug temporarily blocked

A federal judge has temporarily blocked compounding pharmacy from selling a drug to the Missouri Department of Corrections for use in an upcoming execution.

A lawsuit filed by Missouri death row inmate Michael Taylor that argued several recent executions involving the drug show it will cause Taylor "inhumane pain." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul GETTY IMAGES

Rand Paul sues Obama admin

Republican Sen. Rand Paul and a tea-party backed group are suing the Obama administration over the National Security Agency's phone record collection policies.

Paul says the suit is filed for themselves and on behalf of all Americans who are or have been customers of phone service in the United States since 2006.

The lawsuit argues that the bulk collection program that's been in existence since 2006 violates the Constitution's Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches.

The Kentucky senator and the group Freedomworks are represented by former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who unsuccessfully ran for Virginia governor last year.

Paul, a prospective Republican presidential candidate, has been outspoken against the Obama administration's surveillance programs and has called for the end of the dragnet collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario out $641M thanks to federal budget: Wynne

Funding. Premier claims province is being unfairly shortchanged in its equalization payments from Ottawa

Premier Kathleen Wynne stands next to Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa. RICHARD J. BRENNAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty made a deliberate decision to shortchange Ontario to the tune of $641 million in the federal budget, Premier Kathleen Wynne charged Wednesday at a news conference with Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa.

The minority Liberal government claims funding cuts in the last eight years of federal Conservative budgets have cost the province billions of dollars.

Ontario will get 18 per cent of its revenues this year from federal transfers, the same percentage it received in the mid-1990s, but Sousa said that's still a cut.

"The level of funding to the province of Ontario is actually going down on a per capita basis," he said. "That's the fact."

A key bone of contention between the two governments is a cut in the equalization payments for Ontario because of its improving economy. In previous years, there was an unwritten rule that the federal government would guarantee total transfer protection to make sure a province didn't get less money.

"The federal government made a decision to treat the government of Ontario differently than it had treated all the governments across the country in the past few years," she said.

The Harper government was willing to invest in Alberta's oil sands and large energy projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, but won't partner with Ontario to develop the huge Ring of Fire mineral deposit or meet its infrastructure needs, said Wynne.

However, Flaherty rejected Ontario's arguments and said the province's Liberal government apparently doesn't understand how the equalization program works.

"We have not reduced transfer payments to any of the provinces," he said.

Ontario contributes more than $100 billion to Confederation, which is $11 billion more than it gets back through federal transfers and equalization, and just wants to keep more of its own money, added Wynne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Toronto man who led after-school program faces child porn charges

Chun Him (Louis) Wong, 25, is charged with two counts of possession of child pornography, two counts of accessing child pornography and two counts of making child pornography available.

Police say the man also worked as an after-school program leader at Thorncliffe Park Public School and Gateway Public School from September 2008 to June 2013 and as a director at several summer camps in the Greater Toronto Area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario byelection. Riding wins may predict election

The votes in Niagara Falls and Thornhill, north of Toronto, won't change the status of Kathleen Wynne's minority Liberal government.

But they could prompt one or both opposition parties to pull the trigger when time comes to pass the budget, expected next month, and propel the province into a spring election.

Niagara Falls, a former Liberal riding, is a tight two-way race between the NDP and the Progressive Conservatives.

Political observers predict that an NDP win would prompt hawks in the party to pressure their leader Andrea Horwath to stop propping up the Liberal government.

"Even if they don't win the seats, as long as their candidates do better than they did in the last election, they can at least say we're going in the right direction," said Henry Jacek, professor of political science at McMaster University in Hamilton. "If they take Niagara Falls, they'll say, 'We're the real Opposition.'"

Horwath will also face pressure for an election if either her party or the Liberals take Thornhill from the Conservatives, one of the few suburban "905" ridings around Toronto that the Tories hold.

PC Leader Tim Hudak wants an election as soon as possible and will push hard if the Tories hold Thornhill and take Niagara Falls, which had been Liberal for a decade. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Algerian soldier sole survivor of jet crash, few share that experience

76 dead. Fifteen people in the world share the soldier's fate of being the lone survivor, documentary reveals

The Algerian soldier who was the sole survivor of the crash of a military jet that killed 76 joins a group of people who carry a burden unique to those who live through mass tragedy.

Just a handful of people around the world share the experience — including another Algerian soldier from a 2003 crash whose name has never been released. They often cope with debilitating and isolating guilt and injuries, according to Ky Dickens, director and co-producer of the documentary Sole Survivor. Dickens, who began research for her film in 2010, identified 15 sole survivors around the world. "Every lone survivor we talked to, they tended to not want to be found, not want to share their story, not want to talk about it," Dickens said.

Here are two of their stories

RETURN FROM SAFARI: The nine-year-old Dutch boy was still strapped to his seat, unconscious but still breathing, his legs shattered amid the debris scattered in the Libyan desert sand. The Afriqiyah Airways Airbus crashed on approach to Tripoli, killing 103 passengers and crew on May 12, 2010. Ruben van Assouw learned that he was the sole survivor only days later.

PLUCKED FROM THE OCEAN: Bahia Bakari remembered little from the last moments of the Yemenia Airways flight she took with her mother from Paris to the Comoros in 2009 — an electric shock to her body, the cries of women she could not see. Alone in the Indian Ocean darkness — 152 people died on the flight — she grabbed some debris and floated. For 10 hours the 12-year-old stayed in the water, until a passing fisherman came to her rescue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The wreckage of an Algerian military plane that slammed into a mountain Tuesday. ANIS BELGHOUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algeria plane crash

Officials reduce death toll

The toll for the crash of an Algerian military transport plane has been reduced to 76 dead and one survivor, a civil defence spokesman said Wednesday.

Lt. Nassim Bernaoui of Algerian Civil Defence said the military plane carried 77 people, not 78.

The Algerian military transport slammed into an eastern mountain on Tuesday as it flew to the city of Constantine. The plane took off from the desert city of Tamanrasset. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amnesty. Group fears 'ethnic cleansing' in Central African Republic

The exodus of tens of thousands of Muslims from Central African Republic amounts to "ethnic cleansing," Amnesty International said Wednesday, warning that the sectarian bloodshed now underway despite the presence of thousands of peacekeepers is a "tragedy of historic proportions."

Their report comes as the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed fears that the violence ravaging Central African Republic could ultimately divide the country in two.

"We cannot just continue to say 'never again.' This, we have said so many times," Ban said late Tuesday.

"We must act concertedly and now to avoid continued atrocities on a massive scale."

Meanwhile, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian pledged Wednesday on a visit to Central African Republic to continue disarming both Muslim and Christian fighters. "No one accepts or will accept a partition'' into a Muslim north and Christian south, he said.

In recent days, thousands of Muslims have climbed aboard trucks destined for neighbouring Chad, a predominantly Muslim country whose soldiers have provided armed protection to the convoys. A wave of violence against Muslim civilians is being committed by Christian militiamen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslim exodus

For months, UN and French officials have warned that a genocide could be looming in Central African Republic, and Amnesty's use of the term "ethnic cleansing" is among the strongest language invoked yet.

- Amnesty said the term is justified "given the level of violent and purposeful forced displacement."

U.K. Bad weather likely linked to climate change: British weather service

Britain's weather service says it sees the tentacles of climate change in a spate of storms and floods battering the country, but has stopped short of saying warming directly caused the extreme storms.

The latest round of bad weather hit Britain's west coast Wednesday with winds gusting at more than 160 km/h. The Met Office said in a paper published this week that "there is no definitive answer" on the role played by climate change in the recent weather and floods. But it said there is "an increasing body of evidence that extreme daily rainfall rates are becoming more intense," probably due to a warming world.

Chief scientist Julia Slingo said "all the evidence suggests there is a link to climate change." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resident pushes her dog in a wheelbarrow, in the flooded part of Staines-upon-Thames, England, on Wednesday. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panama Canal

Tentative deal on dispute reached

Panama Canal Administrator Jorge Quijano said Wednesday that a tentative agreement with contractors has been reached on some issues that have stalled work on the biggest expansion of the waterway in a century.

But Quijano said the Panama Canal Authority might take over the project if no agreement is reached this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watchdog survey

U.S. plunges in press freedom

Efforts to protect national security have taken a toll on press freedom in the last year, above all in the U.S., a media watchdog said.

The U.S. ranked 46th among 180 countries in a survey by Reporters Without Borders, falling 13 places from last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Switzerland

Gun ownership rules changed

The Swiss government says it's lifting its ban on weapon ownership for citizens of Croatia and Montenegro but keeping it for people from other southeast European countries, Algeria and Sri Lanka.

The Federal Council said Wednesday there's no more reason for the two countries to be on a list of nations whose citizens can't buy or own weapons in Switzerland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand

Court tosses out election fight

Thailand's constitutional court on Wednesday rejected petitions by both the ruling and main opposition parties accusing each other of attempting to overthrow the system of government during recent elections.

The government could have been forced out of office if the opposition won its case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Usage-based insurance in Canada?
What the Beep!

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Canada Bread sold to Mexican firm for $1.83B

That's a lot of dough.
Maple Leaf bakes up tasty deal to off-load division to baking giant Grupo Bimbo

Canada Bread has struck an agreement to be acquired by one of the world's largest bread companies in a transaction valued at $1.83 billion.

Grupo Bimbo, based in Mexico, said Wednesday it will buy Canada's dominant breadmaker with the support of Maple Leaf Foods, which owns a 90 per cent stake in the operations.

What Grupo Bimbo gains from buying Canada Bread is a position in the Canadian marketplace and the ownership of popular brands like Dempster's and Bon Matin.

Slicing off divisions

Maple Leaf Foods is in the midst of a restructuring plan to improve profits of its overall business, which is primarily focused on meat products.

"The company fits exactly within our strategic soft spot as a leader in its domestic market," Grupo Bimbo chief executive Daniel Servitje said in a conference call.

"(This is) a new market for Grupo Bimbo which helps strengthen our presence in the Americas."

The transaction also ends Maple Leaf Foods' pursuit of a buyer for the bakery division, which it announced last October. THE CANADIAN PRESS

United Auto Workers

Volkswagen to get das auto union in the U.S.?

Workers at Volkswagen's lone U.S. plant in Tennessee are kicking off a three-day election about whether they want to be represented by the United Auto Workers union.

If the union succeeds, the Chattanooga plant would become the first among foreign automakers in the South to unionize. The election begins Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fourth-quarter results

Air Canada shares hit turbulence

Air Canada vowed it won't be thrown off course in 2014 even though its shares went into a tailspin Wednesday after severe weather and a weaker dollar hurt fourth-quarter results and promised to inflict more pain in the new year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S.-Canada relations

Time to prep for post-Obama era, says Jim Prentice

It's high time Canada started looking beyond the Obama era if it wants to push economic integration with the United States to a new level, says former Conservative Cabinet Minister Jim Prentice. That includes pushing for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which has been stalled by U.S. domestic politics, Prentice said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

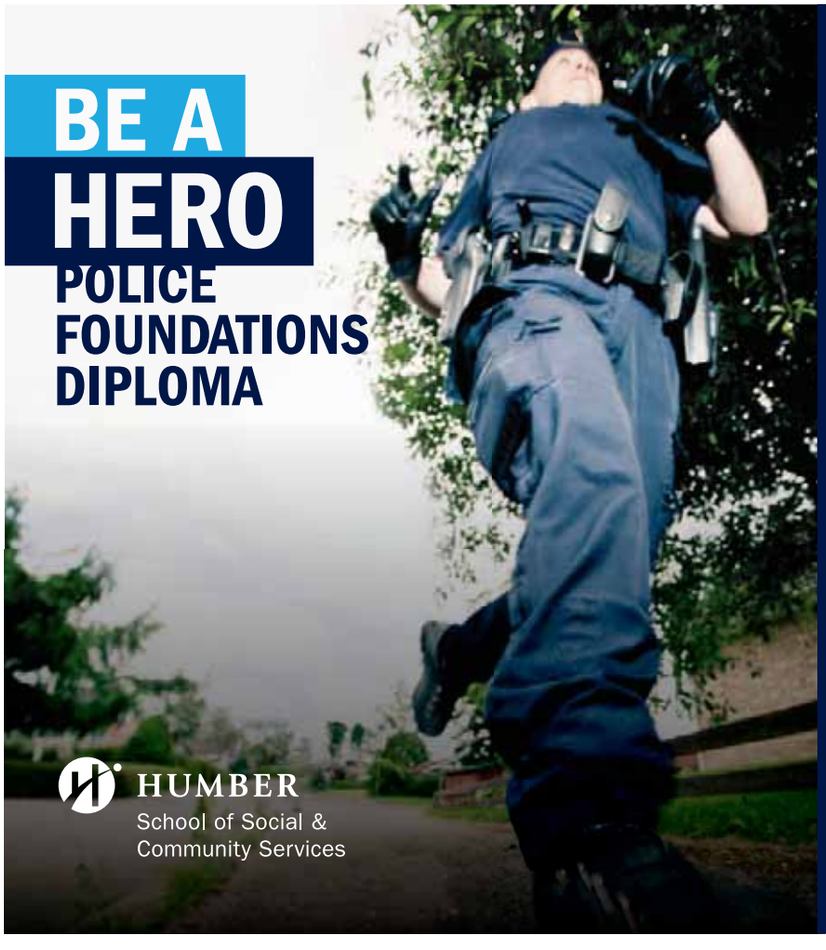
DOLLAR 90.93¢ (+ 0.16¢)

TSX 13,900.49 (+ 19.50)

OIL $100.37 US (+$0.43)

GOLD $1,295 US (+$5.20)

Natural gas: $4.85 US (-$0.09)
Dow Jones: 15,963.94 (-30.83)



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HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Normally I'd say Valentine's Day is a holiday that should be cut short like its decapitated namesake.

Normally I'd argue it's not a real holiday unless I'm earning time and a half.

Normally I'd suggest that the only reason Valentine's receives any attention at all is that it lands when the weather is barren and any real holidays are far away. It's like a stranger in a bar when the lights come on. Our time with it might be awkward and trashy, but we'll take what we can get.

But I won't say any of that because I have a girlfriend for the first Valentine's this decade. So — just in case she cares — Valentine's is a wonderful, splendiferous day (wheee!) and I can't wait to spend it with her in whatever reasonably priced restaurant she desires.

As a loving tribute to my return to coupledom, I offer this fragrant bouquet of information:

Valentine's Day By The Numbers:

1: The loneliest number.

2: The least lonely number.

3: The soon-to-be-lonely-again number.

4: The polygam-est number.

Relationships

13,491,617: Number of Canadians who would laugh in your face if you asked them out right now.

12: Happy couples.

700: Percentage spike in the crime rate since same-sex couples were allowed to marry and society crumbled.

1.3: Median number of children it will take to salvage your crumbling relationship.

580,000: Number of times someone will say, "I don't know, what do you wanna do?" on Valentine's Day (average three per couple).

170: Number of guys pretending they like Michael Bublé at any given moment.

5: Number of days after Valentine's you can wait before dumping your partner, guilt-free.

0: Number of unrequited loves thinking about you right now.

Gifts

$356: Minimum amount your partner will spend on you if they really love you.

32: Number of insect larvae legally permitted in the chocolates you're about to receive.

15: Number of years until corporations automatically deduct a minimum $100 directly from your chequing account as part of a Mandatory Incidental Love Fee, or MILF.

8,732: Number of relationships that will spark with the heat of a thousand suns thanks to the gift of a heart-shaped doughnut.

60,000: Approximate number of bees killed annually for Bee Mine? card industry.

$1.4 billion: Value of all Valentine's cards purchased in North America.

1.4 seconds: Average time spent glancing at card.

14,541: Number of Canadians unemployed in the candy, floral and gift card business because of you and your friends' cynical attitudes.

Fewer than 12: Number of minutes I spent on research.

ZOOM

Did Russia get this wrong?

COURTESY GREG WYSHYNSKI/YAHOO SPORTS

Rings' colours not tied to continents

No, the different-coloured Olympic rings don't correspond to specific continents.

But you'd be forgiven for thinking differently if you're going to or from Sochi's airport.

Five enormous concrete sculptures of the rings welcome visitors, each labelled in bold letters, in Russian and English, with the name of a continent: Africa, Asia, Australia (pictured), Europe, and the Americas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In actuality...

- International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams says "the rings are not assigned to each continent."
- When Pierre de Coubertin, considered the founder of the modern Olympics, designed the rings a century ago, he chose black, red, yellow, green and blue because every flag in the world bore at least one of those colours, according to the Olympic Museum.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

JOSH SEMANS/FLICKR

So maybe those piano or violin lessons in elementary school didn't exactly stick, but surely you remember a scale or two. Test your musical memory, or just have fun making music with these apps that turn your phone into a handheld musical "instrument." Warning: This will annoy pretty much anyone in earshot and you will have way more fun creating "songs" than anyone will have listening to them.

Shaker:

Turn your phone into a pocket percussion centre. From the triangle to the tambourine to the tam tam, this free iTunes app has the drum section of your band covered.

Harmonica:

Both Apple and Android have their eyes on the handheld harmonica (oh wait, real ones are also handheld), but the Android version lets users get up close with their phones and play with their mouth (option for hands too, if you don't trust where your phone's been).

Virtuoso Piano 3:

Just like riding a bike, once you learn to play Heart and Soul you never forget. Or so no one's ever said. Test the theory and tickle the ivories on your phone.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Canada's men's hockey team plays Norway Thursday. Should fighting be allowed in Olympic hockey?

@CALanuza: Yes, it brings excitement to the game; Remember this guys are pro athletes.. #Sochi2014 #yyc

@Dweller15: off course, what kind of question is it? What a hokey without fight?

@cndneh: why should fighting be allowed at all?

@Mr_B_Robertson: No. The greater the threat of injury to NHL players, the greater the chance the NHL won't let its players go the Olympics.

@kkjohal769: NO!!fighting is not necessary send the right message to our young people

@larrington: with fighting allowed, world does not take NHL ice hockey seriously as a sport; it's just entertainment.

@MainStPoodle: Yes. And growling, chasing and biting.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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metro

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SCENE 2

Hotel that defines a 'hood turns 10

Happy birthday!

Neighbourhood can be divided into before-Drake and after-Drake eras.

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

"I don't remember anything else being around there," recalls Brendan Canning of Broken Social Scene of his first visit to the Drake Hotel in 1991. "It was the new venue. It was not slick by any measure and you could eat $4 Chinese food next door."

The Chinese food remains, but little else from that era has survived. Jeff Stober bought the building in 2001 and after three years of renovations, the Drake re-emerged as a hip, boutique hotel.

Its transformation paved the way for the remaking of the Queen West area it calls home.

"It really changed the complexion of the neighbourhood," says Canning. "There was no sign of bohemian lofts." This week, the Drake celebrates its 10th birthday, paying homage to its local, cultural roots with a series of events.

Housed in a building that's more than 120 years old, the Drake has seen a lot of change during its lifetime.

It was hit particularly hard in the downturn, experienced in many urban centres during the 1970s and '80s, yet by the end of the '90s, things were starting to turn around.

"There was already a real interesting vibe when Jeff bought the building," remembers Bill Simpson, the hotel's general manager. A number of art galleries had opened on the strip and musicians were flocking to the area, drawn by cheap rent and the basement venue known as "1150 Queen, under the Drake."

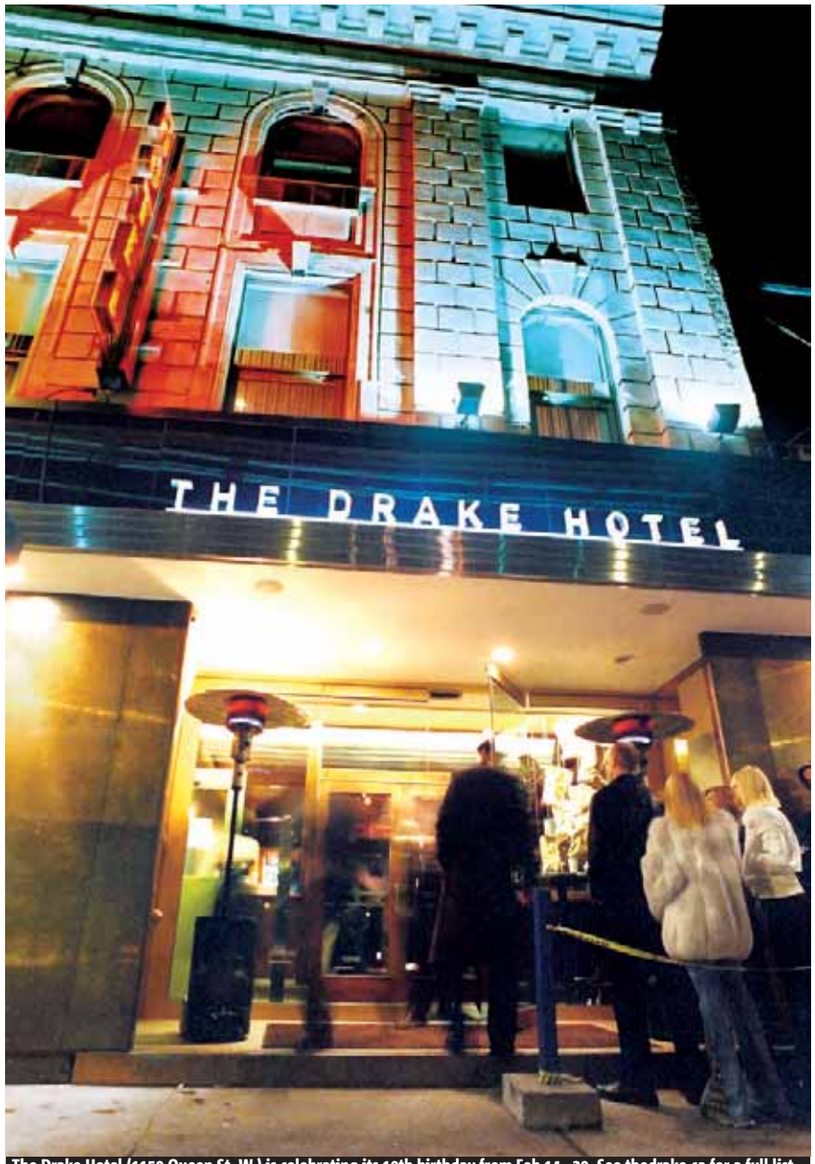
Sloan was one of many bands who played their first Toronto gig in the space. "He saw the Drake as a convergence of communities, a cultural hub."

Today the neighbourhood reflects that vision, blending art, food, drink and music with the local residential community. The hotel's symbiotic relationship with local businesses is what's allowed the Drake to become "somewhat institutionalized," says Simpson.

"It's almost like we were always here."

Party at the Drake all week

- **Feb 15.** Megan Bonnell and Emilie Mover take over the Underground (7 p.m., $12) before Quatro steps in to lead the dance party (11 p.m., $10)
- **Feb 17.** Community Family Pancake Breakfast in the underground with proceeds benefitting the Parkdale Community Food Bank. (9 a.m. - 11 a.m., $10 donation).
- **Feb 20.** The official b-day bash featuring a performance from Hooded Fang and a birthday cake "unlike any other." (9 p.m., $10).
- **All week long.** The Drake's signature burger and fries are just $10.



The Drake Hotel (1150 Queen St. W.) is celebrating its 10th birthday from Feb 14 - 20. See thedrake.ca for a full list of activities. CONTRIBUTED

Hey girl, Alex Pettyfer just wants to love

Be mine? Star of Endless Love claims he's just a big puppy dog when it comes to matters of the heart

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Endless Love, starring Alex Pettyfer, opens on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Alex Pettyfer is sorry to say he's a hopeless romantic at heart, which actually made signing on for the remake of Endless Love a no-brainer. Of course, we don't necessarily think there's anything wrong with being a softie.

This seems like a pretty intense film to make, emotionally. How did you approach it?
Well, the most difficult thing about making this movie was that when you're 23 or 24, which is how old I am, you want to be 30. You want to be looked upon as a man. And I'm playing 18 years of age, and you kind of have to go back to that naïve way of thinking and that childlike energy. That was the hardest thing for me — the most fun, but the hardest.

I don't remember feeling that naïve and childlike at 18.
Yeah, we all think we know everything when we're 18.

The more a movie focuses on romance, the more some people will use that as an excuse to ask about your personal life. How do you cope with that?
I just say no. I'm very blunt. I don't really care. I don't really answer that.

What's your own personal opinion of romantic films in general?
I love romantic films. I love Love Actually, I love Bridget Jones. I'm sad in that sense — I'm a sucker for a good rom-com. And I wanted to make one. I'm so lucky that I've been given this opportunity to do a movie like this. I'm a hopeless romantic.

I don't think that's sad, to say that you like rom-coms.
Yeah, well… I mean, it's sometimes tough for a man to admit that they're a hopeless romantic.

I don't know, I feel like I've met quite a few in my time.
You have? You've met some hopeless romantic men? Well that's good. At least I'm not alone in that.

Are there any other directors you're just dying to work with?
I'd love to work (David) Fincher. The way he makes movies I find very interesting, the technique he uses. He does a lot of takes. He believes that the mentality of the actor fades after a certain amount of takes and then rebuilds his consciousness in a different light so that the view on the scene becomes different. So he does, like, 60 or 70 takes.

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Dr. John rocks on

No slowing down. Songwriter talks to Metro about his tribute to Louis Armstrong

A legendary songwriter and eccentric showman, Malcolm John "Mac" Rebennack Jr., is best known to the rest of us as Dr. John. Now 73, he has been making music since the 1950s. His crazy concoctions of blues, jazz, zydeco and possessed voodoo psychedelia extend to more than 30 records and countless compilations.

So you're already working on a new album?
Well, it's a tribute to Louis Armstrong. Louis came to me in a dream and said, "Do my stuff your way." And that's what I did. We'll finish it up pretty soon I think.

The last time we spoke, you had just released your record about Katrina. Now that more time has passed, do you see a new New Orleans?

Well, in some ways it's like the whole lower Ninth Ward — they haven't done anything. It's been pretty much left to its own devices and that's a shame. ... There were just so many musicians that were from there, you know. I wonder what they'd think to see that whole neighborhood is gone. That's sad to me. But listen, we're gonna make the people warmer when we get there. METRO

In light of the news that Blue Ice Pictures bought the film and TV rights to Robyn Doolittle's Crazy Town: The Rob Ford Story, the Metro editorial team started speculating who should play Toronto's titular titan. Here are our top three picks:

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

John Goodman

An overwhelming number picked the man best known as Dan Conner. He's got the girth, yes, but he's also proven he can play the wildcard act with aplomb — witness his turn as the 'back in 'Nam' referencing Walter Sobchak in The Big Lebowski. Our resident film expert Richard Crouse wasn't convinced though: "He'd bring the baggage of previous roles to the film."

Kevin James

There'd be a wicked sense of irony in casting the man who starred in I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry as the Pride Parade-evading Ford. And as Metro's film writer Steve Gow notes, James has the physicality for the role. "No one could physically emulate the bombastic and blundering nature of Rob Ford like the dude who played Paul Blart: Mall Cop."

Meryl Streep

More than a few Metro folk delved into arthouse territory, selecting an actress to play Ford. There were murmurs of Tilda Swinton, but ultimately the role was awarded to the greatest actress of our time. "Meryl Streep could play anyone," noted copy editor Rita Zhivotovsky. "It will be her greatest challenge yet," said style editor Liz Beddall.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Shia LaBeouf ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

LaBeouf, are you really #SORRY or this piece just a pile of bull-Shia?

Shia LaBeouf is sorry. So sorry, in fact, that he's embarked on a "performance art" piece this week at a Los Angeles gallery space entitled #IAMSORRY. According to the gallery's press release, "Shia LaBeouf is sorry. Sincerely sorry. He will be in situ at 7354 Beverly Blvd. for the duration. Implements will be provided." Visitors are invited, one by one, to enter a curtained-off room where LaBeouf sits at a table in a tuxedo with a paper bag over his head, eye holes cut out. He says nothing, responds to no questions, and then removes the bag to show that he is crying. LaBeouf is scheduled to be staring at visitors and crying through Sunday. Fans of pointing out LaBeouf's penchant for plagiarism have been happy to remark on the similarities between this stunt and Marina Abramovic's 2010 installation piece The Artist is Present, during which she would sit in a gallery and let strangers stare at her one at a time, eventually bursting into tears.

Lip-synch claims hitting Britney one more time

Britney Spears is being dogged by more lip-syncing accusations after an Instagram video surfaced taken during her current Las Vegas residency that shows her microphone pack fly off her waistband, pulling her earpiece mic away from her mouth without effecting her vocal performance at all. It wouldn't be such a big deal if it weren't for claims made by Spears' team before the launch of the residency. "Britney Spears will be singing live during her show. She will not be 'lip-syncing,'" her rep said.

Britney Spears

The Word

Will $75M deal bring sizzle back to celeb cook's career?

Paula Deen has found a key ingredient to reheating her tarnished brand — a cash infusion worth at least $75 million US from a private investment firm.

The Savannah-based celebrity cook announced Wednesday that she's launched an umbrella company that will oversee her restaurants, cookbooks, product endorsements and other remaining slices of her media empire. The new company, called Paula Deen Ventures, said private-equity firm Najafi Companies is investing $75 million to $100 million to help Deen make a comeback.

Deen's fortunes took a dive last year after comments she made under oath during proceedings in a lawsuit, namely that she had used racial slurs in the past, became public. The Food Network dropped Deen, as did pork producer Smithfield Foods, book publisher Ballantine and several other companies that paid her to endorse their products.

In a statement, Deen praised the partnership with Phoenix-based Najafi and the decision to name Steven Nanula, who has already worked with Deen for the past two years, to serve as CEO of Paula Deen Ventures.

"I know this is the right decision to lead my team, as we continue to share quality products with my fans — whose love and support have built my brands," Deen said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eva Mendes

Eva X-es out rumours that she's with child after airport opt-out

Eva Mendes knows the consequences of being picky about security. The actress recently opted out of using a walk-in body scanner at the airport, prompting speculation that she's pregnant. "You know those X-ray scanners, which are really creepy? They basically see you naked," she tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview. "And not only that, but there's a radiation aspect to it. So I always opt out. I always ask for a personal pat-down. That was good enough reason (for people to assume I'm pregnant.)" Sure, but what about those breakup rumours circulating since she and Ryan Gosling haven't been spotted together since October? While Mendes' publicist was already quick to shoot down such reports, Mendes offers some jokey plans for Valentine's Day that pointedly do not include Gosling — at least not in person: "I'm not a big Valentine's Day person," she says. "I'll probably just order a deep dish and watch The Notebook or something. Just cry, weep."

Twitter

@EllenBarkin
Do you think I could be the "global ambassador" for Lay's potato chips?

@ActuallyNPH
I'm so proud of @RealHughJackman for hosting this year's Tony Awards and for calling me an hour ago to say, 'Suck it!'

@SarahKSilverman
Doing a kickstarter to raise $ for rich kids who have never heard the word no. Please help!

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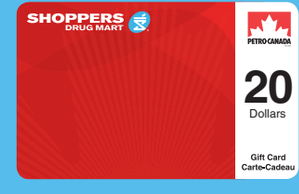

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Guess what's coming to Danielle

Who's that girl?
Canada's Danielle Knudson only told her family and a handful of close friends that she'd booked the campaign of a lifetime. I Guess everyone else is about to find out.

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall
@metronews.ca

When I meet up with Guess' new it-girl Danielle Knudson, she's surrounded by loose copies of her new ad campaign for the iconic brand. The spread features photos of the blonde bombshell frolicking in the late-afternoon Laguna Beach sunlight.

These images are in stark contrast to the surrounding polar-vortexed environment of our chat, which has left Danielle and I both sweater-bundled as we get warm inside the confines of the Guess boutique in Toronto's Queen West neighbourhood.

But while my pasty face and salt-stained boots give me away as a winter-whipped local, you'd think this new Guess girl, with her sunkissed skin and golden locks, was born and raised along the southern California shoreline. But make no mistake about it, she's Canadian.

Danielle Knudson says her next goal as a model is to be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. We'd sign off on that!
HANDOUT

You're now living the model's dream life in New York, but you were born and raised in Alberta. Is there anything you miss about home?
I loved growing up in Red Deer — I was there right until I was 18. And my family now lives just outside of Banff. Going home, I still love going home to see the mountains. We have a ski hill in Red Deer that no one knows about called Canyon Ski Area, which is kind of hidden in the middle of nowhere. I spent many years growing up there skiing.

The story of your rise to fame is an insanely quick one. As I understand you were at a shoot for another client and were asked to take a selfie, which was forwarded to Guess LA. Guess booked you that day, flew you out to LA that night and began shooting with you the next day. Correct?
Yes, about six months ago I got booked for the look book. Paul Marciano came to the shoot and met me and the agency called me and they put me on hold for everything and the rest is kind of history. It was like boom, boom, boom.

Tell me a little bit about the day of the Laguna Beach shoot. What was the general itinerary?
The campaign was actually shot over three days. We woke up very early because the lighting was beautiful in the morning — maybe 5:30. It went by so quickly. We would do hair and makeup and go to location, and shoot so many looks. We'd shoot until the sun went down.

Paul Marciano was on set with you at this shoot as well. What's he like?
Paul has been so amazing — he's been so supportive of me. Always told me to be myself. He just made me feel like I'm important to the brand — that they wanted me there.

Flash forward a year from today. What do you foresee?
My life is changing very quickly — I'm taking everything in as it's coming my way.

She's got this in the bag

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‘Starchitects’ bring value to T.O. condos, Pei says

Big names. Gehry, Pei among architectural partners involved in new Toronto projects

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Any big-money business like Hollywood or Wall Street creates its own celebrities, and the condo industry is no different. Toronto, being the North American mecca for condominium development, has its own cadre of high-profile, recognizable “starchitects” who seem to be doing most of the new projects in town: Peter Clewes, Stephen Teeple, Hariri Pontarini, Roland Rom Colthoff, to name a few.

So does a big-name architect add value to a building? Metro asked Sandi Pei of Manhattan-based Pei Partnership Architects: “I think architects who are recognizable are often retained by developers, given that people are investing so much money into their apartments, that the long-term return on it is extremely important. The architect does contribute to that because of all the things that are offered in addition to nice kitchens and bathrooms. I think by having a good architect does lend greater value.”

A model of the Mirvish+Gehry condo project viewed from the south.
COURTESY BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS

Pei is collaborating with Quadrangle Architects on the design of Tower Hill’s 2221 Yonge condo project. “The city has encouraged intensification of this area because of the good transportation. It’s a very attractive neighbourhood particularly for young professionals because they don’t necessarily require a car,” Pei says. “It’s a nexus in the city, a very attractive location, which has a certain vitality, vibrancy and energy which distinguish this neighbourhood and this building from just another apartment tower anywhere else in the city.”

For Pei, architecture is a family business. His brother is a partner and both worked for their famous father, modernist architecture legend I.M. Pei, who designed Toronto’s Commerce Court West.

David Mirvish has partnered with world-renowned architect Frank Gehry on the Mirvish+Gehry condo towers in Toronto. The complex will reside on six properties owned by the Mirvish family located on the north side of King Street, just west of the financial core. The trio of towers are guaranteed to leave their mark on the cityscape, ranging in size from 80 to 85 storeys.

At an event held at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Gehry vowed to make the buildings truly unique: “The towers we’re talking about, instead of all of them being one design, we’re trying to differentiate them so that they have different characters and yet relate to each other,” explained Gehry, “and having some sense of movement in the towers so they’re not just a stick.” The design will feature two six-storey, stepped podiums topped by the three towers and will incorporate 2,600 residential units.

Manhattan-based Pei Partnership Architects is collaborating on Tower Hill’s 2221 Yonge condo project, shown in this artist’s rendering. CONTRIBUTED

Legal Matters

Do I need closing documents for my deal?

I am involved in selling my house that I bought six years ago and my realtor is asking if I have any of the documents that I received when I purchased the property. I seem to remember receiving something but have no recollection where I would have put it. I approached the law firm that assisted me with my closing and they indicated that they can reproduce the documents, but there will be a charge as the file has to be pulled from archives and the report reproduced. Do I need these documents and if so, why would the law firm be charging me for documents that belong to me?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Each lawyer in charge of a real estate transaction is required to report to their client after the transaction has closed. Usually this occurs within a month of so of the big event but sometimes can take longer depending on specific circumstances. So, your lawyer would have provided you with a copy of all the documents that pertain to your transaction, then they were required to store these documents for future reference. If you were not able to keep track of the report they provided, then there are hard costs for that law firm to retrieve your documents.

However, what’s more significant is whether you need these documents. Now that we have an electronic registration system, the all-important deed can be called up from the Teranet Registration System without having to go into the lawyer’s archives. Even the old standby land survey has lost a lot of its importance due to the advent of title insurance. So, I would ask if you require any of the documents from your six-year-old transaction before you dig up documents that you don’t need.

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Modern twist on an ancient art

Irresistible resist-dyed offerings

Mood indigo: A shibori tablecloth, placemats, and napkins from the OriShibori collection. DAVID MALOSH/ORISHIBORI.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A shibori scarf produced by Eskayel, a design firm based in New York. The home-design purveyor is creating the look of shibori patterns using ink, water and watercolors, followed by digital printing techniques. ESKAYEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A large OriShibori leather wall hanging. DAVID MALOSH/ORISHIBORI.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Setting the scene: OriShibori patterns its table linens on Japan's centuries-old fabric art of shibori. DAVID MALOSH/ORISHIBORI.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rediscovering tie-dye.

Designer collections embrace the hand-crafted beauty of Japanese shibori

From tablecloths, duvet covers and iPhone cases to wallpaper and startling calf-skin wall hangings, the ancient Japanese resist-dying technique of shibori has gone mainstream. Vera Wang, Ralph Lauren, Eileen Fisher, Levi's and innumerable fibre artists are breathing new life into the craft.

"The stillness and beauty of it really centres me," said Oriana DiNella, who recently launched her own web-based shibori line, including linen tableware, pillows, throws and large leather wall hangings, all made to order and hand-dyed in organic indigo.

"It feels like a rebellion against the fashion movement, where everything seems so fast and disposable," the New York-based designer explained.

Today's incarnations are as different from their early Japanese predecessors as they are from the wild, tie-dyed pieces that became emblematic of the '60s and '70s.

There's a sense of timelessness and calm to the modern shibori pieces, and also a renewed focus on workmanship and functionality.

"I love the bleeds, the fluidity of it. I love how the light shades of indigo can be so pale and watery and the navies can be such a deep, deep blue," DiNella said.

Brooklyn designer Rebecca Atwood uses modern fibre-reactive dyes for her Blauvelt Collection, which includes pillows and pouches. And home-design purveyor Eskayel is creating the look of shibori patterns using ink, water and watercolours, followed by digital printing techniques.

"We have wallpaper, rugs, fabric, pillows, baskets, iPhone cases, stationery, prints and wall hangings. Oh, and poufs," said founder and creative director Shanan Campanero, when asked about the company's shibori-inspired offerings.

Compared to the tie-dyes of a generation ago, she said, today's shibori-inspired works feature patterns that are more careful, deliberate and traditional.

Vera Wang's collection is centred on bedding, while Ralph Lauren's features swim trunks and clothing. Levi's has even come out with shibori-inspired jeans. But while mass-produced items lack the nuanced appeal of handcrafted works, they bring a surprising touch of texture and pizazz to the familiar.

Despite widespread interest in shibori in the West, "we are still concerned with its survival in Japan," explained Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada, author of Shibori, and Memory on Cloth.

"Adapting shibori to something contemporary is the key to its survival," she said. "When the big designers come out with it and young artists take it in new directions, then more people here and in Japan start to pay attention." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Make shibori at home

For those inclined to take on do-it-yourself projects, shibori has never been more accessible. It can be done easily at home using minimal equipment.

- Urban Outfitters sells its own shibori kits, and lessons are widely available online, from basic for beginners to truly advanced. Martha Stewart Living features a project on its website using a standard pressure cooker to make elegant shibori at home.
- Serious shibori artists and workshops across the country and internationally can be found through the Berkeley-based World Shibori Network. With a membership of dedicated artisans in Japan and around the globe, it was founded in the 1990s because of fears that the traditional craft would disappear.

Technique takes shape

ESKAYEL

Shibori is slow. It takes time, and has been around since about the 8th century. The word comes from the Japanese shiboru, meaning "to wring, squeeze or press."

- The technique involves twisting, tying, crumpling, stitching or folding fabric — usually silk or cotton — in various ways, transforming the two-dimensional material into a sculptural, three-dimensional form.
- This sculptural shape is then traditionally dyed, originally using indigo, although a huge variety of colours and dyes are now used.
- Sometimes, the same fabric is then twisted in some other way and then dyed again. When the wrappings are removed, the folds and creases where the fabric resisted the dye form distinctive crinkled textures and patterns.

3-D shapes

More than just dying — shibori is sculptural, too

A sort of "memory on cloth," Shibori also encompasses Issey Miyake's revolutionary pleated clothing, fulling and felting, and other methods of transforming natural fabrics into 3-D shapes.

The work of Hiroyuki Murase exemplifies both the 3-D possibilities of shibori and the bridge between traditional and new. Murase grew up in Arimatsu, Japan,

Shibori lamp shades. SUZUSAN, HIROYUKI MURASE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

where shibori has been done using traditional techniques for 400 years. Today, his array of Luminaires lampshades and haute couture fabrics, designed for the likes of Christian Dior, are the cutting edge of modern shibori. THE ASSOCIATEDS PRESS

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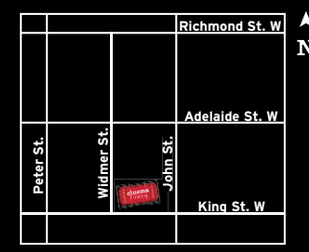

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Taylor loft building coming to Leslieville

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Taylor
- **Builder.** Streetcar Developments
- **Location.** Carlaw Avenue and Dundas Street
- **Website.** taylorlofts.ca
- **Building.** Seven-storey, 96-unit loft building
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- **Pricing.** From the mid-$200,000s to $700,000

An artist's rendering of The Taylor in Leslieville. CONTRIBUTED

The project overview

Streetcar Developments is bringing The Taylor to Toronto's hip Leslieville this spring. One of Toronto's trendiest pockets, Leslieville is a destination for dining, shopping and living. The Taylor boasts a variety of arts and cultural activities at your doorstep.

Building amenities

Nine-foot, exposed concrete ceilings, engineered hardwood floors throughout, quartz kitchen countertops, porcelain backsplashes, undermounted sinks, undercabinet lighting, integrated appliances and a great outdoor space.

What's hot on the condo market

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1. Waterfront

Open House: The Garrison condos near the waterfront. Several suites available. Head on over to 169 Fort York Blvd., Feb. 15 and 16 from noon to 5 p.m. **CALL 416-260-8200 FOR MORE INFO.**

2. Bloor Cinema

Film Event: Work to Live/Live to Work, an initiative of the Toronto Society of Architects at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. at Bathurst, Feb. 13 at 6:30 and 9:15 p.m. Tickets $11. **CALL 416-637-3123 OR VISIT BLOORCINEMA.COM FOR MORE INFO.**

3. Long Branch

Open House: The Watermark condos in Long Branch, seven-storey boutique building. Two suites available. 3563 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Feb. 15 and 16 from 12 to 5 p.m. **CALL 905-286-5888 FOR MORE INFO.**

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Sales & marketing

BILDing GTA's quality homes takes partners

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

Building quality, complete communities is a team effort involving more than the land developers who spearhead the projects or the construction workers responsible for bringing them to life. I'm talking about the sales and marketing professionals who work very hard to help new-home purchasers find the perfect home for them and their families.

Builders work with award-winning advertising and marketing agencies, many of whom are BILD members, to create everything from the advertising in your local newspaper to the design, decor and literature of and in the presentation centres.

New-home buyers in the GTA are fortunate to have some of the finest professionals in the world working on development across the region. A number of them were recently recognized at the Nationals — the United States' largest international competition for new-home sales and marketing professionals and communities.

I was in attendance last week to cheer on our members who received 40 nominations in total. The competition was tough, with some finalists featuring high-rise heavyweights from Panama, Shanghai and New York. Our members walked away with trophies in four categories.

Great Gulf Homes was selected the winner in the Best Brochure category with the help of their agency — Community, who created the brochure for the Yonge+Rich condominium development.

In the Best Signage category, Empire Communities received top honours for The HUB thanks to the hard work of its agency 52 Pick-Up.

Remington Homes walked away with awards in two categories, being honoured for its Downtown Markham development in the Best Social Media Campaign and Best Presentation Centre categories. The latter with an assist from Figure 3 Interior Design.

I'd like to congratulate all the winners and finalists, and wish you the best of luck when we announce the winners of our own BILD Awards on April 25.

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EMPIRE COMMUNITIES

Decorate with confidence

Home sweet home: Use pro decorating tips to make it your own. ISTOCK

Avoid pitfalls. Designer tips guide you through the process of decorating

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Getting a decorating project off the ground takes planning, budgeting and a lot of effort to see it through. Here are a few pointers to help get you through your next decorating project:

The Big Bang: Don't expect to go from blank canvas to finished interior in one fell swoop. Remember that interiors are created in layers, over time. I always say that you can put a room together in two months but it takes at least a year for it to evolve into a room that tells a story.

A Wing and a Prayer: Starting a decorating project without a plan is like shopping for groceries on an empty stomach; you'll simply waste time and money. Survey your resources, then make a list of needs, wants and things you'd love down the road.

Ebenezer Scrooge: There are times when it is better to splurge than to economize. That "bargain" sofa loses its charm when its seams split and arms start to wobble.

My Way or the Highway: Sometimes a fresh approach is best. Hire a decorator or try this simple trick: Re-arrange your furniture to jump start a design update and see your things in a new light.

Making Do: That perfectly-good hand-me-down dining table probably won't win any design awards as part of your decor scheme, so know when to say no to freebies.

More is Better: Use accent pieces to introduce new colours, textures and shapes to prevent your room from becoming monotonous. Art, area rugs and bedding are great ways to shake up a room with colour and pattern.

Doubting Thomas: Don't trust your own judgment? Do research, clip photos from magazines, watch design television shows and ask your friends. Start small and learn from your mistakes. The best designers did the same.

Got a decorating question? Email me at life@metronews.ca.

Fall in love with a gluten-free delicacy

This recipe serves 12. JEFF COULSON

Sweet Week. These Flourless Chocolate Lava Cakes are perfect for any Valentine

1. In heatproof bowl over hot (not boiling) water, melt chocolate with butter, stirring until smooth. Stir in vanilla seeds. Remove from heat.

2. Whisk in sugar. Whisk in eggs and egg yolks, 1 at a time. Whisk in cocoa powder and salt.

3. Pour into twelve 3/4-cup (175 ml) ramekins; place on rimmed baking sheet. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Bake as directed, adding 5 minutes to baking time.)

4. Bake in 425 F (220 C) oven until edges are set and centres are slightly jiggly when lightly tapped, about 15 minutes. Let cool on pan on rack for 3 minutes. Run knife around edges and turn out onto plates. Garnish with strawberries, and whipped cream. EXCERPTED FROM CANADIAN LIVING: THE COMPLETE CHOCOLATE BOOK. COPYRIGHT © TRANSCONTINENTAL BOOKS, 2013. EXCERPTED BY PERMISSION OF TRANSCONTINENTAL BOOKS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS EXCERPT MAY BE REPRODUCED OR REPRINTED WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE PUBLISHER.

Ingredients

- 12 oz (340 g) bittersweet chocolate or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- Seeds of 1 vanilla pod
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 6 eggs
- 6 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder, sifted
- Pinch salt
- 12 oz (340 g) strawberries, hulled and diced
- Whipped cream (optional)

FLASH FOOD

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Cookbook of the Week

Bringing the sexy back to chocolate

The pros in the Canadian Living Test Kitchen have collected their best chocolate recipes in their book The Complete Chocolate Book.

Chapters focus on the varied, wonderful textures of chocolate treats. Craving an ooey-gooey caramel-topped cake? A dark, chewy brownie? A crispy, crunchy cookie? This book has you covered. METRO

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VALENTINE'S DAY!
gift guide

There are a number of ways you can impress your significant other this Valentine's Day. LUMINAIMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fall in love with these ideas

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Fantastic. How exactly did Valentine's Day sneak up on you? If you forgot to plan for Friday, let Deanna Lorraine help you out. This San Diego-based dating coach shares her best ideas for couples of all stages.

If you have just started dating

"Surprise her with a big bouquet at her work," Lorraine said. Or amaze your new beau with your gourmet side. "Take them to your place for candles, music and a gourmet meal you've prepared."

If you have been together a long time

"Plan a last-minute overnight trip to somewhere within driving distance or a quick flight away," Lorraine said. Have a look at travel websites to score last-minute flight and hotel deals.

Or surprise your partner with your thoughtfulness. "Pick up tickets to a concert or play they're interested in."

If you are single

Google can turn up many singles events happening on Valentine's Day.

"Or create a singles event — throw an anti-Valentine's singles party," Lorraine said. "And tell everyone to invite any single person they know."

Or how about taking a trip?

"Plan a trip with a friend who's single — a road trip or getaway for the weekend like New York or Vegas. So something you can look forward to together. Make it an excuse to get out of town and away from all the couples."

If you are on a budget

Create couple coupons. "Make a book of coupons to redeem for a massage or a night of me cooking dinner for you," Lorraine said.

Or get scrapbooking. "Make either a physical or online book. There's some great cheap or free software online such as Animoto that you can put together video clips and pictures with music."

Plan a last-minute overnight trip to somewhere within quick driving distance this Valentine's Day. OLEKSA/SHUTTERSTOCK

If you have a family

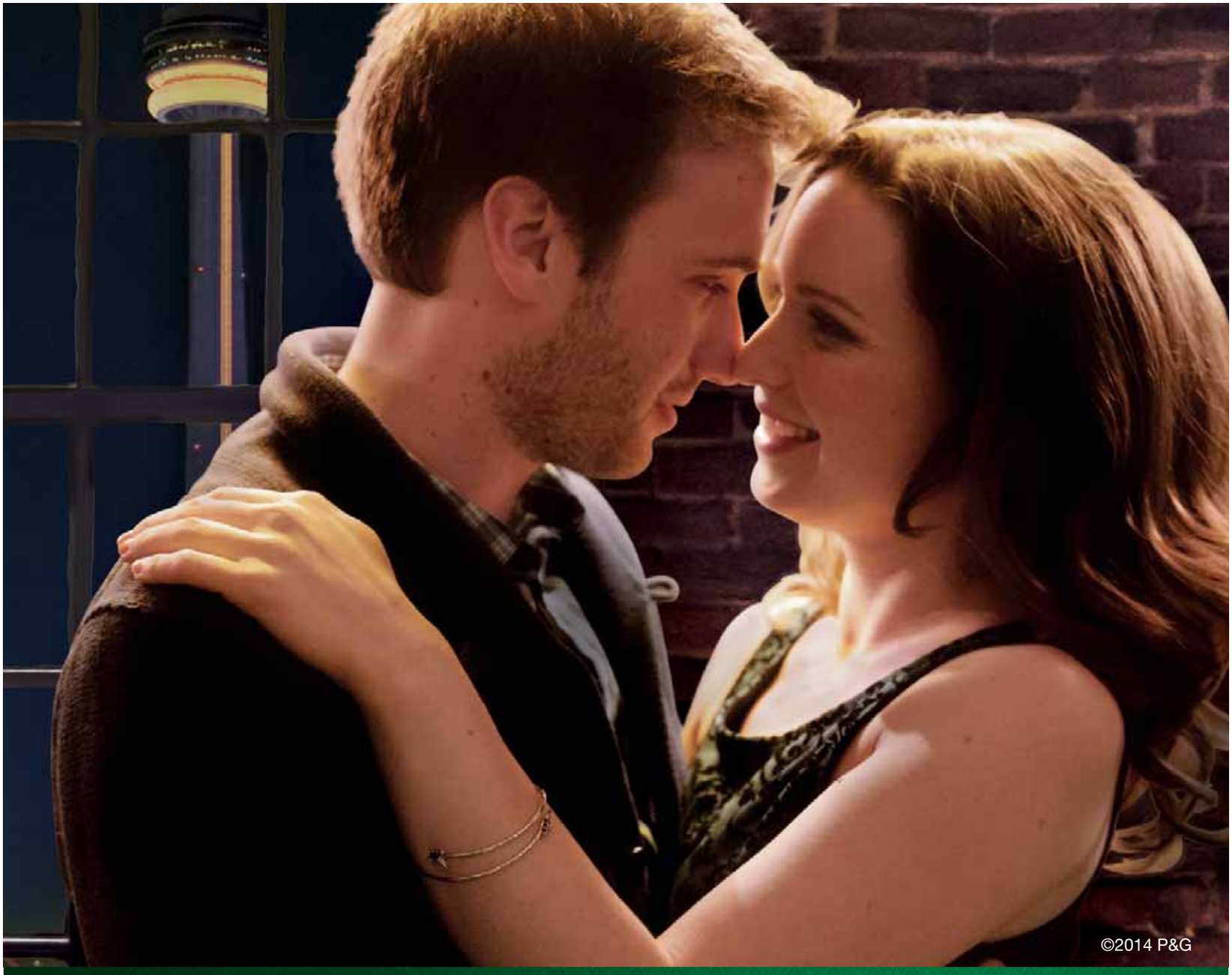
Do the kids like to celebrate with mom and dad?

"Create a big dinner and have everyone help cook—and also cook something you normally wouldn't," Lorraine said. "Have everyone dress up, too."

But it's important parents get some time together, too, she added.

"So after the kids are in bed, have a secret date in your master bedroom with a decadent dessert."

1 shopping day left



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Customizable Perfect Tea Mug, $22.250, available at DAVIDsTEA, davidstea.com.

Lush Close To You massage bar, $7.95, available at Lush, lush.ca.

Roots Lip Pouch Prince, $26, available at Roots, roots.ca.

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Target kitchen essentials, including heart print placemat, $2.99, heart cake pop pan, $16.99, heart cookie pan, $5.99, heart-shaped cupcake pan with phrases, $22.99, spatula with heart print, $3.99, available at Target, target.ca.

DAVIDsTEA Sweetheart Collection, various prices, available at DAVIDsTEA, davidstea.com.

Shelley Purdy Blushing Hearts 14 mm ring, $350, available at shellypurdy.com.

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VALENTINE'S DAY HIGHLIGHTS

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Gifts with a creative flair

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Instead of red roses this year, get a balloon arrangement for your sweetheart. GPOINTSTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Forget roses — this year, you want your Valentine's Day gifting to have a creative flair to it. So what to give?

Here are a few ideas for you to steal.

Instead of chocolate ...

Get some old-school candy. Does your love have a sweet tooth? Hit a retro candy store such as Sugar Mountain and put together a basket of Nerds, Lik-a-Maids, Necco Wafers, Laffy Taffies and more for a sweet night.

Or go the opposite route and give your love a chilled bottle of wine along with a gift bag of crackers, upscale cheeses and pates to ensure a romantic night in.

Instead of red roses ...

Get a balloon arrangement. Many flower stores also sell balloon packages for someone who may get the sneezes with flowers.

Or pick up a piece of artwork at a local boutique or shop.

Instead of restaurant reservations ...

Get your inner Bobby Flay on and surprise your partner with a bag of groceries. You read that right — only your job will be to turn that bag into a gourmet meal at your place while your Valentine sits back and sips Merlot.

Or buy her favourite takeout, a bottle of wine and the kind of sappy movie that's only allowed to be seen on Valentine's Day. A cosy night at your place may just be for what your partner is looking.

Instead of a classic diamond engagement ring ...

Propose with a vintage ring you have picked out especially for her. Be sure to work with a vendor you trust to ensure you get a quality ring.

Or there are many alternates to a traditional engagement ring. Think a black diamond, a ring featuring a ruby, sapphire, emerald or topaz stone. Or you can browse craft sites such as Etsy.com to find rings featuring petrified wood, square rings, rose rings and more.

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Skater's sacrifice sets up Morrison's silver

Speedskating. Gilmore Junio drops out of 1,000 metres to make way for teammate

How about having Gilmore Junio carry the Canadian flag into the closing ceremonies of the Sochi Olympics, says Denny Morrison.

How about having both long-track speedskaters lead Canada into Fisht Stadium?

Morrison, taking the place vacated two days earlier by his friend and teammate Junio, raced to silver in the 1,000 metres between a pair of Dutch skaters Wednesday to write the final chapter to a remarkable story of selflessness and doing the right thing.

"It's a dream, a fairytale story," said an emotional Morrison after earning his third Olympic medal in three Games. "It's difficult to really believe that it's happening."

Said Junio: "I think that's the big power of the Olympics. Anything can happen. Expect the unexpected."

Having come back from a broken leg the year before, Morrison agonizingly clipped a skate on his heel at the Canadian trials in December, falling 50 metres from the finish line and failing to qualify for the 1,000 metres. There was a reskate an hour later at the trials, but his tank was empty and he missed out by four-hundredths of a second.

So the 28-year-old from Fort St. John, B.C., came to Sochi with a place in the 1,500 metres and team pursuit but as a reserve in one of his bread-and-butter distances.

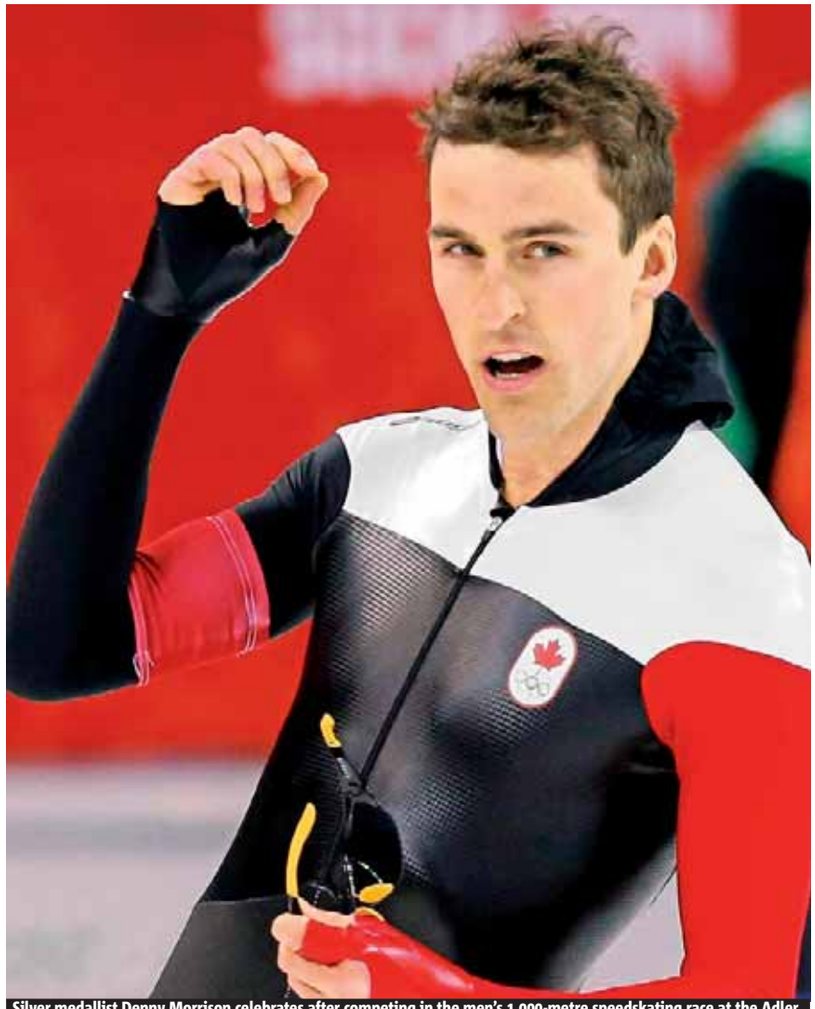
Speed Skating Canada then approached Junio, a 23-year-old from Calgary who was 10th in Monday's 500 metres, and asked whether he would consider giving his place up to the veteran.

"It was 100 per cent my decision. They left it in my court," said Junio, who is better in the 500 than the 1,000. "They said 'You can talk to Denny.'

"But it was an easy decision. The guy's been skating unreal these past few weeks and I wanted to see him skate the 1,000 metres."

Junio also had his own reasons.

"I've a lot to learn in the 1,000 and I think the Olympics, representing Canada, isn't kind of the place to learn such lessons," he said. "We're here to perform. So I thought maybe in four years, hopefully my 500 will be good and my 1,000 will be even better, that I won't have to make this decision. Maybe someone will make it for me." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Silver medallist Denny Morrison celebrates after competing in the men's 1,000-metre speedskating race at the Adler Arena Skating Center in Sochi, Wednesday. PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympic spirit

"Maybe that's something we can get behind, because I think that would be really special.... He does embody what it means to be an Olympian ..."

Denny Morrison, on the push to have Gilmore Junio as the closing ceremonies flag-bearer.

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Monkey still on Canadian lugers' backs

The team of Tristan Walker and Justin Snith from Canada slide down the track past spectators during the men's doubles luge at the 2014 Winter Olympics on Wednesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Walker, from Cochrane, Alta., and Snith, from Calgary, were a whisker away from becoming the first Canadians to win an Olympic luge medal, coming just five-100ths of a second short of a podium appearance. Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt of Germany left with the gold medal. NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top Canucks in pairs finish in fifth place

Figure skating.
Moore-Towers, Moscovitch already eyeing next Olympics

Minutes after their program came to a smiling, giggling conclusion, Kirsten Moore-Towers of St. Catharines, Ont., and Toronto's Dylan Moscovitch were spontaneously committing to another four years.

"This is far too much fun," Moore-Towers said through a wide smile. "Yeah. Hell yeah. We say we're going to take it one year at a time, but why not, right? Dream big."

The Canadian skaters finished fifth Wednesday in pairs at the Sochi Olympics on a night Russia returned to its old ways, utterly dominating the discipline. Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov won the gold, while teammates Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov captured the silver.

Four-time world champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany had to settle for the bronze for the second straight Olympics.

Meagan Duhamel of Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford of Balmertown, Ont., dropped from fifth after the short program to finish seventh. Paige Lawrence of Kennedy, Sask., and Rudi Swiegers of Kipling, Sask., were 14th. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowboarding

Tsuyuki falls short of halfpipe final

Toronto's Katie Tsuyuki finished seventh in the semifinal round of the women's halfpipe Tuesday at the Sochi Games.

The 31-year-old accumulated 56.25 points to just miss advancing as the top six finishers moved on.

Kaitlyn Farrington of the United States won gold, followed by Australia's Torah Bright with silver and American Kelly Clark with bronze.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Norway	4	3	5	12
Canada	**4**	**4**	**2**	**10**
Netherlands	4	2	4	10
United States of America	3	1	5	9
Russian Federation	2	4	3	9
Germany	6	1	1	8
Austria	1	4	0	5
Switzerland	3	0	1	4
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
Sweden	0	3	1	4

WHAT CANADA DID

WEDNESDAY

ALPINE SKIING
Women's Downhill - Larisa Yurkiw, Owen Sound, Ont., 20th, (one minute 43.46 seconds, +1.89 seconds)

CURLING
Women's Round Robin Session 4 - Canada 9 Britain 6 (Standings: Canada 3-0, T-1st)
Men's Round Robin Session 5 - Canada 7 Russia 4 (Standings: Canada 2-2, T-5th)

FIGURE SKATING
Pairs Free Program - Kirsten Moore-Towers (St. Catharines, Ont.) and Dylan Moscovitch (Toronto), 5th, (131.18); Meagan Duhamel (Lively, Ont.) and Eric Radford (Balmertown, Ont.), 7th, (127.32); Paige Lawrence (Kennedy, Sask.) and Rudi Swiegers (Kipling, Sask.), 14th, (103.01).
Final Pairs Ranking: Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch, 5th, (202.10); Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, 7th, (199.53); Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers, 14th, (161.98).

ICE HOCKEY
Women's Preliminary Round - Group A - Canada 3 United States 2 (Standings: Canada 3-0, 1st)

LUGE
Doubles Run 1 - Tristan Walker (Cochrane, Alta.) and Justin Snith (Calgary), 4th, (49.857 seconds, +0.484 of a second)
Doubles Run 2 - Tristan Walker and Justin Snith, 6th, (49.983 seconds, +0.423 of a second)
Doubles Final Ranking: Tristan Walker and Justin Snith, 4th, (one minute 39.840 seconds, +0.907 of a second)

SNOWBOARD
Ladies' Halfpipe Qualification - Heat 1: x-Alexandra Duckworth, Kingsburg, N.S., 7th, (69.75); **Heat 2:** x-Katie Tsuyuki, Toronto, 9th, (54.25); Mercedes Nicoll, Whistler, B.C., 12th , (43.50).
x- qualified for semifinals
Ladies' Halfpipe Semifinals - Katie Tsuyuki, 7th, (56.25); Alexandra Duckworth, 11th, (32.50).
Ladies' Halfpipe Final Ranking: Katie Tsuyuki, 13th; Alexandra Duckworth, 17th; Mercedes Nicoll, 25th.

SPEED SKATING
Men's 1000m - Denny Morrison, Fort St. John, B.C., **Silver Medal**, (one minute 8.43 seconds, +0.04 of a second); Vincent De Haitre, Cumberland, Ont., 20th, (1:10.04); William Dutton, Humboldt, Sask., 26th, (1:10.61); Muncef Ouardi, Quebec City, 32nd, (1:11.07).

HOCKEY

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
Sweden 4 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 1 Latvia 0
Thursday's games
Finland at Austria, 3 a.m.
Russia at Slovenia, 7:30 a.m.
Slovakia at United States, 7:30 a.m.
Canada at Norway, 12 p.m.
WOMEN
Group A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**2**	**9**
United States	3	2	0	0	1	14	4	6
Finland	3	0	1	0	2	5	9	2
Switzerland	3	0	0	1	2	3	18	1

Group B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	6
Russia	2	2	0	0	0	6	2	6
Japan	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
Germany	2	0	0	0	2	1	8	0

Note: Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.
Wednesday's results
Finland 4 Switzerland 3 (OT)
Canada 3 United States 2
Tuesday's results
Sweden 4 Germany 0
Russia 2 Japan 1
Thursday's games
Japan at Germany, 3 a.m.
Sweden at Russia, 12 p.m.

CANADA 3, UNITED STATES 2

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Lamoureux U.S. (tripping) 4:37, Ouellette Cda (holding) 10:59, Decker U.S. (Body Checking Minor) 17:47.
Second Period
1. United States, Knight 3 (Carpenter, Schleper) 37:34 (pp).
Penalties — Duggan U.S. (interference) 32:27, Johnston Cda (roughing) 32:52, Rougeau Cda (Body Checking Minor) 36:57.
Third Period
2. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 2 (Wickenheiser) 42:21 (pp).
3. Canada, Wickenheiser 2 (Spooner, Agosta-Marciano) 43:54.
4. Canada, Agosta-Marciano 3 (unassisted) 54:55.
5. United States, Schleper 1 (Decker, Lamoureux) 58:55.
Penalties — Decker U.S. (tripping) 40:53, Pucci U.S. (hooking) 51:59.
Shots

Canada	8	11	12—31
United States	11	13	3—27

Goal — Canada: Labonte (W); United States: Vetter (L). **Power plays (goal-chances)** — Canada: 1-5; United States: 1-4.
Attendance — 4,812 at Sochi, Russia.

CURLING

All Times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
Canada 7 Russia 4
United States 9 Denmark 5
Norway 8 Germany 5
China 5 Switzerland 4
China 11 Germany 7
Britain 4 Switzerland 2
Denmark 8 Sweden 5
Thursday's games
Switzerland vs. Russia, 5 a.m.
Canada vs. Denmark, 5 a.m.
Norway vs. Sweden, 5 a.m.
Britain vs. United States, 5 a.m.
WOMEN
Wednesday's results
Canada 9 Britain 6
Japan 8 Russia 4
China 7 United States 4
Sweden 7 South Korea 4
Thursday's games
Canada vs. Denmark, 12 a.m.
China vs. Britain, 12 a.m.
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 12 a.m.
Sweden vs. Denmark, 10 a.m.
Russia vs. South Korea, 10 a.m.
Switzerland vs. **Canada**, 10 a.m.
Japan vs. United States, 10 a.m.

Canada wins first battle against U.S.

Women's hockey.
Agosta-Marciano's two goals lifts spirits of defending champions

A 3-2 win over the archrival United States was a big boost to Canada's confidence, but history shows Wednesday's result won't mean much if the two women's hockey powers face off for Olympic gold.

This tournament format introduced at the world championship two years ago has pitted the women's hockey heavyweights against each other in the preliminary round before a second meeting in the final.

Each country has won the round-robin matchup, only to lose the final in both 2012 and 2013.

But after dropping four straight exhibition games to the Americans before their arrival in Sochi, the Canadian women could feel good about themselves heading into a four-day break before Monday's semifinal.

"Losing the last four games, this is a huge boost for our confidence," captain Caroline Ouellette said. "We know we're even with them and if we do the little things right, we have a good chance to win."

It was Canada's first win against the U.S. under head coach Kevin Dineen, who was hired Dec. 18 following the departure of Dan Church. Dineen was behind the bench for three of those four losses.

Canada and the U.S. already had berths in Monday's semifinals locked down before their game. Both countries opened the tournament 2-0 in Group A.

The top four countries in the International Ice Hockey Federation's world rankings were seeded in Group A and fifth through eight in Group B.

The top two countries in Group A head to the semifinals, while the bottom two face the top two from Group B in Saturday's quarter-finals.

Finland will face the loser of Thursday's game between Sweden and host Russia, while Switzerland takes on the winner in the quarter-finals.

Trailing 1-0 after two periods, Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Ruthven, Ont., scored a pair of goals and had an assist for the defending champions on her 27th birthday.

Linemate Hayley Wickenheiser of Shaunavon, Sask., who was Canada's flag-bearer in the opening ceremonies, scored a controversial goal and assisted on Agosta-Marciano's equalizer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Preliminary Round

Canada	United States
3	2

- Canada's men's national team will play its first game on Thursday against Norway.
- Head coach Mike Babcock named Carey Price as the starting goaltender for that matchup.

Natalie Spooner jumps on top of Meghan Agosta-Marciano of Team Canada after she scored the winning goal in the third period of Wednesday's victory over the United States in Sochi, Russia. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DeRozan on his All Star game vs. Hawks

NBA. Shooting guard shows he belongs in New Orleans ahead of extended break

On Wednesday

Raptors	Hawks
104	83

The Toronto Raptors took care of business in their final game before the All-Star break, defeating the Atlanta Hawks 104-83.

First-time All-Star DeMar DeRozan led the way for Toronto with 31 points, Kyle Lowry added a 16-point, 13-assist double-double and Patrick Patterson scored 14 in his second start of the season.

Patterson started in place of Amir Johnson, who missed his second consecutive game to rest a sore right ankle.

The challenge of the last game before an extended break is keeping everyone focused.

On Wednesday night, the Raptors got off to a slow start, but found themselves trailing by only five after the first quarter, despite shooting just 29 per cent from the floor. They woke up in the second quarter and took a 45-44 lead into the half.

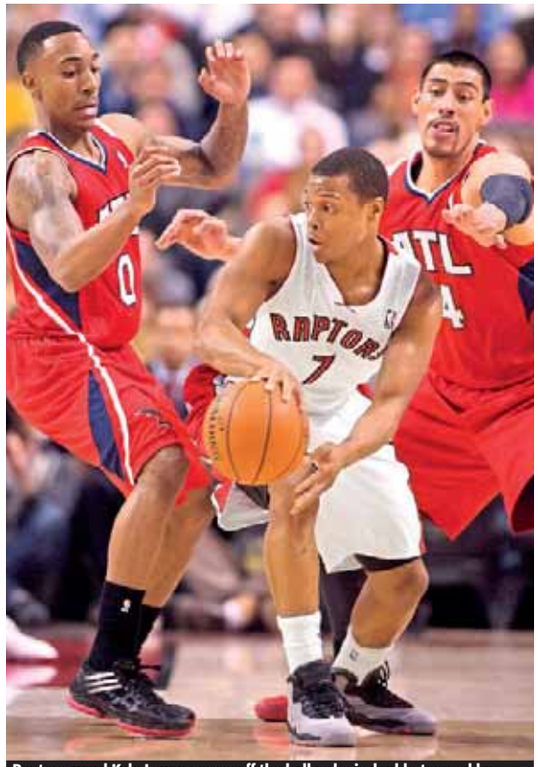
Toronto had a strong start to the third quarter, opening on a 7-0 run to take an eight-point lead and force the Hawks into a timeout. The Raptors didn't look back from there.

Thanks to a brilliant quarter from DeRozan, the Raptors stretched their lead to double figures midway through the third and outscored the Hawks 33-21 to take a 78-65 advantage into the fourth quarter.

After scoring 11 points in the first half, DeRozan exploded for 14 in the quarter, on 5-for-6 shooting including two three-pointers and a three-point play.

"He's done a great job every year of getting better," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said before the game. "I know he won't get complacent, because he's such a conscientious guy. He's a basketball junkie. I don't see him taking time off this summer just because he made the All-Star team."

The Raptors resume their season in Washington against the Wizards on Tuesday after the New Orleans All-Star festivities. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Raptors guard Kyle Lowry passes off the ball as he is double-teamed by Hawks guard Jeff Teague (0) and centre Gustavo Ayon in the first half in Toronto on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL. Argos kicker decides against testing free-agent waters, signs 2-year deal

The Toronto Argonauts re-signed kicker/punter Swayze Waters to a two-year contract on Wednesday.

Waters, who became a free agent on Tuesday, elected to stay with the team he has been a part of since the 2012 season.

The club also announced the release of veteran kicker/punter Noel Prefontaine.

The 26-year-old Waters won the Grey Cup with Toronto in 2012, connecting on 32 of 43 field-goal attempts.

"We believe Swayze Waters has arguably the strongest leg in the CFL," Argonauts general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "He has been a reliable player for our team and is a proven competitor."

A native of Jackson, Miss., Waters was hurt in the 2013 home opener but returned later in the season to go 18 for 25 on field-goal attempts, including a long of 50 yards.

"I am extremely happy to be staying in the Argonaut family," said Waters. "The team, fans and city have made this place feel like home and I am grateful." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos kicker/punter Swayze Waters
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

MLB

Jeter: '2014 season will be my last year'

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter says he will retire after this season "with absolutely no regrets," ending one of the greatest careers in the history of baseball's most storied franchise.

The 39-year-old New York captain posted a long letter on his Facebook page Wednesday saying that 2014 will be his final year.

A 13-time All-Star who has led the Yankees to five World Series championships, Jeter was limited to 17 games last season while trying to recover from a broken left ankle sustained during the 2012 playoffs.

"I know it in my heart. The 2014 season will be my last year playing professional baseball," he wrote. "I have gotten the very most out of my life playing baseball ..." he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You need to be a bit more mysterious, especially on the work front. Keep both colleagues and rivals at arm's length and don't forget that knowledge is power.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you say one thing but do another, you leave yourself open to charges of hypocrisy. You don't need to cut corners or bend the truth. You have so much going for you that you will still come out ahead.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
As your ruler, Mercury, continues its retrograde phase, you need to be on your guard. It's likely that someone will try to cheat you in some way. But now that you know that, it won't be so easy.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your mind may be working fast and you may have come to conclusions that satisfy you but are you sure they're correct? Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even if you don't understand it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
One of your secrets could be dangerous if others get to know about it. Make sure you don't say anything today that might give your opponents a clue what you've been up to.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's important that you are honest about your feelings. If you keep them to yourself, negative emotions may build up to the point where an outburst of some sort is more likely than not.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be careful what you say over the next few days because certain people won't take kindly to you making light of things that they take seriously.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is still time to make your feelings known. But if you leave it too late in the day, the opportunity will slip by and it won't come again for quite a while. Don't worry that you might be rejected.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll get more done if you take a gentler approach to partnership matters. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine how you'd feel if someone talked to you the way you talk to them at times.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may want to be open but with communications planet Mercury now moving retrograde, you would be wise not to give too much away. Anyone asking personal questions is not to be trusted.

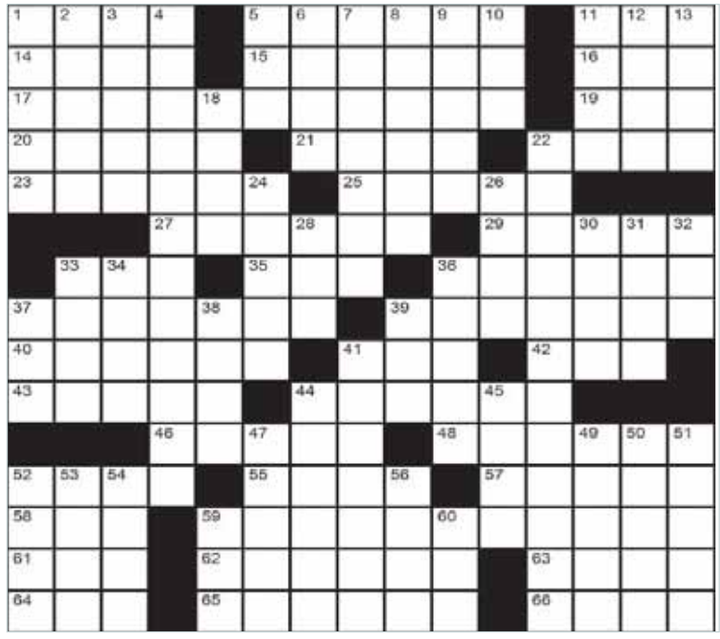
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you need to make some extra money then you will have to go into partnership with someone who shares your ambitions. You will also need to have a contract that commits you both.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not be as ambitious as some but you have no end of dreams you would like to see come true. One dream has your attention now, but is it a realistic dream or is it a fantasy dream? SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



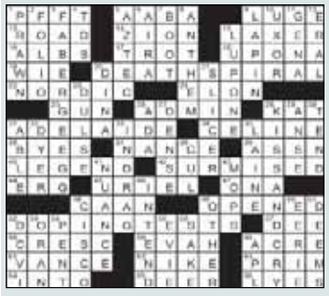
Across

1. Very, in Versailles
5. Lightly blots: 2 wds.
11. Stir
14. Retro-style pop syllable
15. "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Clarke
16. Cut back
17 "Roxy Roller" band from Vancouver: 2 wds.
19. Litigate
20. France's capital, colloquially
21. __ Brasi, "The Godfather" (1972) enforcer
22. Cob's stuff
23. "Man of Steel" (2013) director, Zack __
25. Lord's house
27. Swiped
29.Jabbed
33. 'Neat' suffix
35. Food container
36. U2 tune
37. Anastasia's family, House of __
39. Historic theatre in Russia
40. Sam Worthington movie
41. Oz musical, The __
42. Initials-sharers of Miranda's portrayer on "Sex and the City"
43. "__ __, with Love" (1967)
44. Roman orator
46. Man-made material
48. Wanting to throw up feeling
52. SOCHI 2014 - One of the Olympic symbol's five
55. Banff National Park animals
57. Trims
58. Fabric belt
59. Robin Thicke's actress wife: 2 wds.
61. Guys
62. Actor, Haley Joel __
63. Rihanna's "__ Boy"
64. Lumberjack's tool
65. Styles
66. River of Flanders

Down

1. Chef's li'l amounts
2. "Laugh-In" co-host Dan
3. Manicurist's board
4. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport: 2 wds.
5. Billy Williams link
6. __ acetate (Banana oil)
7. Tar-like deposit found in Alberta's oil sands
8. BC's __ Valley
9. Mr. Quinn
10. Bit
11. Too
12. Glum
13. Airy
18. Old depilatory brand
22. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport
24. Revolving mechanism
26. German-built car
28. Ms. Tyler
30. "Jeopardy": 1983 hit for The Greg __ Band
31. Greek Myth: God of love
32. Agnus __ (Mass prayer)
33. De __ (Again, in Latin)
34. "Misty" line: "Look at me / __ __ helpless as a kitten up a tree..."
36. Bakery quantity
37. Rodent
38. __ a soul
39. Pen brand
41. City in southern Manitoba's Pembina Valley
44. Structure support in architecture
45. Tabula __ (Clean slate)
47. Rent
49. Position, fancy-style
50. Lyric poem variety
51. Lou Grant's portrayer Ed
52. Tomato type
53. Wild goat
54. Ten - One = This
56. Rational
59. 1990s fad game disc
60. Liq. measures

Yesterday's Crossword



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How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3	2						6	9
		6	5			7		
4			9		1			
9				5		4	8	
				1				
	6	2		8				1
			2		7			5
		9			5	3		
5	8						2	4

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	9	8	7	4	6	1	2
1	8	2	5	3	6	7	9	4
7	4	6	2	9	1	5	3	8
9	1	8	4	5	7	2	6	3
2	5	7	1	6	3	8	4	9
4	6	3	9	8	2	1	7	5
3	9	1	6	2	8	4	5	7
8	7	4	3	1	5	9	2	6
6	2	5	7	4	9	3	8	1

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Classics muscle in on the new crop

MIKE GOETZ
For Metro

Move over new vehicles, you aren't the only draw at the 2014 Canadian International AutoShow.

Organizers always ensure there are lots of classics, hot rods, customs and race cars on the show floors for those show-goers who are deep into car culture and car-related pastimes.

The major classic display this year is "Muscle Car Alley," which shines a spotlight on the examples produced by Chrysler — affectionally known by their aficionados as "Mopar Muscle."

"We decided we needed one of the most visible and famous of the Mopar muscle cars out there," said Jon Rosenthal, who is responsible for the classic car content at the AutoShow.

They needed it and they got it — the Plymouth Superbird that NASCAR racing legend Richard Petty used to win eight races during the 1970 season. It is still owned by Petty, and its appearance at the AutoShow marks the first time in 25 years the stock car has left its residency at the Richard Petty Museum.

1971 Dodge Hemi Super Bee. CONTRIBUTED

1970 Dodge Challenger. CONTRIBUTED

"We lucked out," Rosenthal said. "They never let it out, but Richard Petty is creating a new museum on his property so we got the car in between moves."

In 1967, Petty won 27 of the 48 NASCAR races he entered with his Plymouth Belvedere. In 1969, he switched to Ford, because he wanted a slippery Dodge Daytona, but Chrysler executives insisted he stay with Plymouth. To lure Petty back to the Plymouth fold, Chrysler created the 1970 Plymouth Superbird with the iconic shark nose, extravagant "goal-post" rear wing, and 426-inch Hemi V8 racing engine.

1971 Dodge Challenger Convertible. CONTRIBUTED

Another 1970 Plymouth Superbird will also be at the show, this one belonging to Kevin Easton, a Mopar collector, buyer/seller, and restorer based in Lindsay, Ont. Easton tells us this "bird" was purchased new in Ottawa. Only 1,935 Superbirds were built it total, making them rare, unique, and valuable. He estimates this 440-inch V8-equipped monster is an $180,000 car "all day long."

But it's not the most valuable Mopar muscle car Easton is bringing to the show. That distinction goes to a certain purple 1970 Plymouth "Cuda" with a 426-inch Hemi V8. Now worth $200,000-plus, it was originally ordered and purchased strictly for drag racing. It had an illustrious drag racing career at the highest levels before being restored.

Cruise Nationals

- Joining the muscle cars on the 700 level of the Convention Centre will be a most awesome collection of 10 hot rods and customs. They are Cruise National finalists which wowed judges at the 2013 cruising season's finale at AutoFest in Oshawa. Just like the Olympics, gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded at the show to the top three rides. Who will claim the podium? Robert Badrum's 1928 Ford Model A? Steve Thurlow's 1952 Chevrolet Pickup? Dave Jolly's 1939 Lincoln Zephyr? Or something else that is shinier and cooler?

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The 2014 Acura RLX Precision All-Wheel Steer is touted as the world's first technology to feature independently and continuous control of both left- and right-wheel steering (toe) angles. CONTRIBUTED

Shifting focus on the future of vehicles

MIKE GOETZ
For Metro

Automotive technology is advancing on multiple fronts. A major auto show, like the Canadian International Auto Show, is your chance to view the progress first-hand.

The following is a quick tour of three production vehicles on this year's show floor, each with something different and techy to show off.

Aluminum Body — Ford F-150

The 2015 F-150 pickup's body is 95 per cent made up of high-strength aluminum alloy, and a frame 77 per cent made up of high-strength steel. The overall weight saving gain is touted to be as much as 315 kilograms (700 pounds). Some of the weight savings is attributed to a new and lighter base engine — the all-new 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6. Advances in computer modelling and the way aluminum can be formed allowed engineers to design and create the ultimate aluminum shapes and thicknesses to meet their strength and durability requirements. Steel body panels are typically welded while aluminum body panels rely more on rivets and adhesives.

Nine-speed Transmission — Chrysler 200

Chrysler 200 is the first mid-size sedan to have a standard nine-speed automatic transmission. The four overdrive ratios are said to significantly improve fuel economy and noise, vibration, and harshness (NVH). Also, instead of a gear lever, the 200 has a rotary shift knob on the centre console. We have seen these electronic selectors on high-end models, but expect to see more of them everywhere now as they free up space, compared to the traditional console mounted shift lever. Chrysler used the technology to give the 200 one of the coolest centre consoles out there, encompassing a pass-through storage space, a rear opening to route cables into the portion of the console that is covered, and a stylish and flexible cup holder design. The skyline of the city of Detroit is even embossed on the rubber mat in the bottom of the pass-through storage space.

Chrysler 200 is the first mid-size sedan to have a standard nine-speed automatic transmission. CONTRIBUTED

The 2015 F-150 pickup's body is 95 per cent made up of high-strength aluminum alloy. CONTRIBUTED

Rear Wheel Steer — Acura RLX

The 2014 Acura RLX debuts Precision All-Wheel Steer, touted as the world's first technology to feature independently and continuous control of both left- and right-wheel steering (toe) angles. Actuators in the rear wheels make it happen. The rear wheels can turn two degrees in each direction. For some situations, the rear wheels turn in the opposite direction of the fronts. The net result is more agile handling in all situations, and a way for the front-drive Acura to compete on vehicle dynamics with its rear-drive competition.

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Corolla S model shown.**

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2014 RAV4 AWD LIMITED model shown.**

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Venza V6 AWD Limited model shown.**

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Concepts test the limits

MIKE GOETZ
For Metro

The job of a concept vehicle is to test new styling themes and technologies, as well as gauge public reaction to these new directions.

The 2014 Canadian International AutoShow is your chance to get up close and personal to several of these frontier-pushing vehicles and give your two cents worth.

Here's a sample of a few concepts worth seeking out on this year's show floor.

The Nissan Sport Sedan. CONTRIBUTED

Kia provo

The Kia provo concept harkens back to the glory days of European-based "hot hatches" or "tiny terrors," but with today's modern gizmos and go-fast stuff. The provo's snout features an aggressive air intake, carbon fibre panels, and headlights that employ more than 850 programmable LEDs. Under the hood is a 201-horse-power turbocharged version of Kia's 1.6-litre DGI (direct injection) I4 engine, aided by a small electric motor capable of delivering another 44 horses to the rear-wheels only — effectively making the provo an AWD vehicle.

Jaguar CX-17

The Jaguar C-X17 concept is, yes, a type of crossover, or SUV, or tall-wagon type of thing that Jaguar has heretofore never contemplated. But what's under the C-X17 is as equally interesting as its SUV configuration — it debuts Jaguar's new modular aluminum architecture, which should allow Jaguar to produce a diverse type of vehicles with this one architecture. Jaguar has already announced that the first production vehicle to leverage this structure will be a compact luxury sport sedan to compete mano-a-mano with the BMW 3 Series.

The Kia provo. CONTRIBUTED

Nissan Sport Sedan Concept

The Nissan Sport Sedan portends what the next Maxima sedan might look like, and if it does, we say bring it on. This is one sexy looking beast, with flow-over "V-Motion" grille, boomerang light clusters, and a roof that seems to "float" over the body.

Ford Edge Concept

Ford is reinventing the Edge as a more global vehicle, and confirmed that the new generation model expected in 2015 will be exported from its Oakville assembly plant to places like Europe and China. The Ford Edge Concept is high on future tech and a premium interior experience. Witness the hand-stitched instrument panel, and the "next level" autonomous driving aids. Edge Concept can fully park by itself in tight spaces while the driver is outside of the vehicle, and will automatically guide itself out of harm's way in the event of an imminent collision.

Technology. Features make driving simpler

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

AutoConnect

"Automakers are incorporating a dizzying variety of new safety and connectivity features, which you can see and try during the Canadian International AutoShow AutoConnect Showcase on the 800 Level."

A car may be just a machine, but it's becoming an extremely smart one. Automakers are incorporating a dizzying variety of new safety and connectivity features, which you can see and try during the Canadian International AutoShow AutoConnect Showcase on the 800 Level.

While fascinating on their own, features such as proximity sensors, adaptive cruise control, and lane departure warnings are being combined into such systems as Mercedes-Benz's self-steering car, or a Ford that parks itself.

Many of these systems help prevent collisions, such as Infiniti's Predictive Forward Collision Warning, which was named best new technology by the Automobile Journalists of Canada earlier this year. Many cars flash a warning or even apply the brakes if an inattentive driver is about to hit something in front, but Infiniti's system can figure out what's happening two cars ahead, which could help prevent chain-reaction crashes.

You can get a look at Mazda's new i-Activesense, which includes such technologies as a warning beep if a car is coming when you are backing out of a spot, and high-beam headlights that react to oncoming traffic.

New features on the Mini include one that "reads" speed limit signs and cautions if you are driving too fast, and a warning system that detects if the driver isn't stopping for a pedestrian.

Check out Subaru's EyeSight system, which looks at the road ahead using a stereo camera mounted on the windshield. An unusual feature for a moderately-priced car, the camera is linked to several safety systems and can warn if the driver is inadvertently crossing out of the lane, or isn't stopping for a bicycle or motorcycle ahead.

You can get a look at Toyota's new Integrated Safety Management Concept, a series of technologies under development. The concept contains active safety systems, but if a crash can't be prevented, the system also helps prevent injury, and then contacts emergency services.

And, of course, AutoConnect is about connectivity, so have a look at Chrysler's Uconnect, which includes voice-to-text capability, phone apps and voice recognition, and General Motors' OnStar 4G LTE, which will let passengers connect to high-speed wireless in their vehicles.

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See retailer for complete details and exclusions €$5,125 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G) model based on the following MSRP options: $850 Climate Group, $1,925 Single DVD Entertainment, $1,500 SXT Plus Group and $850 Uconnect Hands-Free Group. $7,140 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Journey SXT Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K) model based on the following MSRP options: $1,475 Flexible Seating Group, $1,200 Rear Seat DVD, $525 Convenience Group, $2,645 Navigation & Sound Group and $1,295 Sunroof. See your retailer for complete details. ★Discounts available at participating retailers on the purchase/lease of only the following new vehicles. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT with Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G). Discount consists of: $850 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. 2014 Dodge Journey SXT with Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K). Discount consists of: $2,495 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ‡4.29% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,995, with a $0 down payment, financed at 4.29% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $114/$114 with a cost of borrowing of $3,662/$3,662 and a total obligation of $23,657.39/$23,657.39. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2014 Jeep Cherokee through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2014 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x2 (24A) with a Purchase Price of $24,495, with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $314 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $24,495. ♦4.99% lease financing of up to 60 months available through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Savings Credit Union) on applicable new 2012, 2013 and 2014 models at participating retailers in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2014 Dodge Dart SXT (28B) with a Purchase Price of $20,875 leased at 4.99% over 60 months with $1,479 down payment, equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $129 with a cost of borrowing of $3,843.80 and a total obligation of $19,090.50. 22,000 kilometre/year allowance. Charge of $0.18 per excess kilometre. Some conditions apply. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ^Dodge Journey claim is based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. May 2008 to September 2013 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. **Based on 2013 *Ward's* upper small sedan costing under $25,000. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.**

CCOTY FINALIST: CHEVROLET CORVETTE STINGRAY
Category win: Best new sports and performance car over $50,000
In a nutshell: The new Stingray is a truly bar-raising performance car — packing the highest level of advanced technology, fuel-saving engineering and standard power output ever seen in a Corvette. With world-class performance and a starting price less than $60,000, here is a machine that's bound to give numerous competitors a headache.
Standout scores: Throttle response, steering feel, braking feel and a landslide lead in subjective value scoring rocketed the Stingray ahead of its competitors. Braking performance and passing performance were tops in the category by a hefty margin as well.
Notes: The new Corvette Stingray laid down leading performance numbers and boasted among the category's highest scores across the board — despite an as-tested price up to $44,000 less than the category's pricier entries. Bang for the buck here is immense.

CUVOTY FINALIST: JEEP CHEROKEE
Category win: Best new SUV/CUV under $35,000
In a nutshell: The new Cherokee delivers distinctive styling, tremendous feature content, and all-road, all-weather capability — all in a package designed to be exceptionally fuel-efficient, upscale and attainable. Numerous technological firsts are debuted in this model.
Standout scores: Interior styling, feature content, refinement, ride comfort, off-road capability and subjective value scores helped put the Cherokee ahead of its competitors, as did top scores for safety features.
Notes: The new Cherokee competes in one of the most competitive market segments in Canada and advanced features, safety, refinement and comfort should help it connect readily with value-minded shoppers.

CUVOTY FINALIST: ACURA MDX
Category win: Best new SUV/CUV over $60,000
In a nutshell: Acura's elemental MDX crossover has been a staple of the Canadian market for years, and the all-new model seeks to carry forward on its success. New technology, styling, power and connectivity features are applied, though the MDX's underlying recipe for sensible luxury remains.
Standout scores: Top scores for interior roominess, comfort, ease of access, and ride quality helped the MDX stand out, and scores for quality, acceleration, fuel consumption and emissions performance were among the category's best. These scores came from a competitor with the lowest as-tested price in the group, which should help cement the new MDX as a solid value that will challenge machines priced tens of thousands more.
Notes: The MDX is more upscale, high-tech and efficient than ever for 2014, demonstrates leadership in comfort and space, and maintains a highly attractive price.

CUVOTY FINALIST: KIA SORENTO
Category win: Best new SUV/CUV $35,000 to $60,000
In a nutshell: Heavily updated for 2014, the Kia Sorento brings new technology, powertrains, and styling to the segment, building on a successful product popular with value-minded shoppers after safety, feature content and versatility.
Standout scores: Sorento earned the highest scores for driver position, ergonomics, throttle response and powertrain refinement. It also boasted the strongest acceleration figures in the category. Further, a top score for subjective value was combined with high points in the segment for cargo capacity, visibility, emissions and ride comfort.
Notes: Sorento leads the pack in several scores, lands among the top in others, and boasted an as-tested price some $7,600 lower than the next lowest-priced competitor. Top scores and low pricing confirm the Sorento's high-value approach to connecting with shoppers.

kia.ca >

15TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

THROWBACK PRICING≠

PAYMENTS LIKE THEY WERE 15 YEARS AGO

"BEST ECONOMY CAR"

MOTORING 2014

Forte SX shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 FORTE

hwy / city 100km^ 5.3L/8.0L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$98~~

$78≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first 15 MONTHS.

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $78 bi-weekly payments include the $640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $98. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount.▪

reddot design award winner 2013

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

Rondo EX Luxury shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 RONDO

hwy / city 100km^ 6.2L/9.4L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$128~~

$88≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first 15 MONTHS.

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $88 bi-weekly payments include $1,280 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E), financing for 84 months. Offer includes $750 loan credit†. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $128. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.▪

AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Sportage SX Luxury shown△

THE NEW 2014 SPORTAGE

hwy / city 100km^ 7.0L/10.0L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS ~~$146~~

$99≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first 15 MONTHS.

1.49%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $99 bi-weekly payments include $1,504 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $146. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.▪

OFFER ENDS FEBRUARY 28TH

5 Year Warranty*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty.

Proud Partner of madd
Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees, dealer admin. fee up to $399 and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include licensing or applicable taxes.

KIA.CA

GTA KIA .ca

KIA
The Power to Surprise

Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by February 28, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $34 OMVIC fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ≠Throwback Pricing available O.A.C. on financing offers on new 2013/2014 models. Financing for 84 months example: 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E)/2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E)/2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E) with a purchase price of $17,913/$23,993/$25,193 (including $1,485/$1,665/$1,665 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0%/0%/1.49% for 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $78/$88/$99 followed by 150 bi-weekly payments of $98/$128/$146. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$1,343.86 and total obligation is $17,913/$23,993/$26,536.86. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E)/2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E)/2014 Sportage LX MT (SP551E) shown is $640/$1,280/$1,504 (a $20/$40/$47 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. See retailer for complete details. Throwback Pricing is a trademark of Kia Canada Inc. †Loan credit for 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. 0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. △Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Forte SX (F0748E)/2014 Sportage SX AT Luxury AWD (SP759E)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756E) is $26,195/$38,295/$32,195. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Sportage 2.4L 4-cyl (A/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

The best in class

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
For Metro

For decades, the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) has presented the annual Canadian Car of the Year (CCOTY) awards, which recognizes the best all new or significantly updated models in the Canadian marketplace.

Best, in the above context, is based on votes of Canada's top auto review experts after participation in a weeklong testing event that requires back-to-back, same-day road tests of all competing models within numerous categories. The CCOTY voting system creates a level playing field and combines expert scores with data relating to fuel efficiency, price, safety, performance figures and more. There is no more comprehensive and thorough vehicle evaluation program in the world.

The underlying goal? Generation of an overall score for each vehicle, with each category's top-scoring model earning a "best new" win. From an initial field of 58 entries slotted into 12 categories, scoring saw the field narrowed down to 12 best new category winners, which range from affordable compact cars to high-dollar luxury sedans, pickups, crossovers and more.

Category winners are re-evaluated under a separate set of criteria, which considers significance, value, merit and emotional appeal. After that re-evaluation, the overall Canadian Car of the Year is determined, as well as the Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year (CUVOTY). These overall winners will be announced Thursday morning.

The winners will be on display during the Canadian International AutoShow.

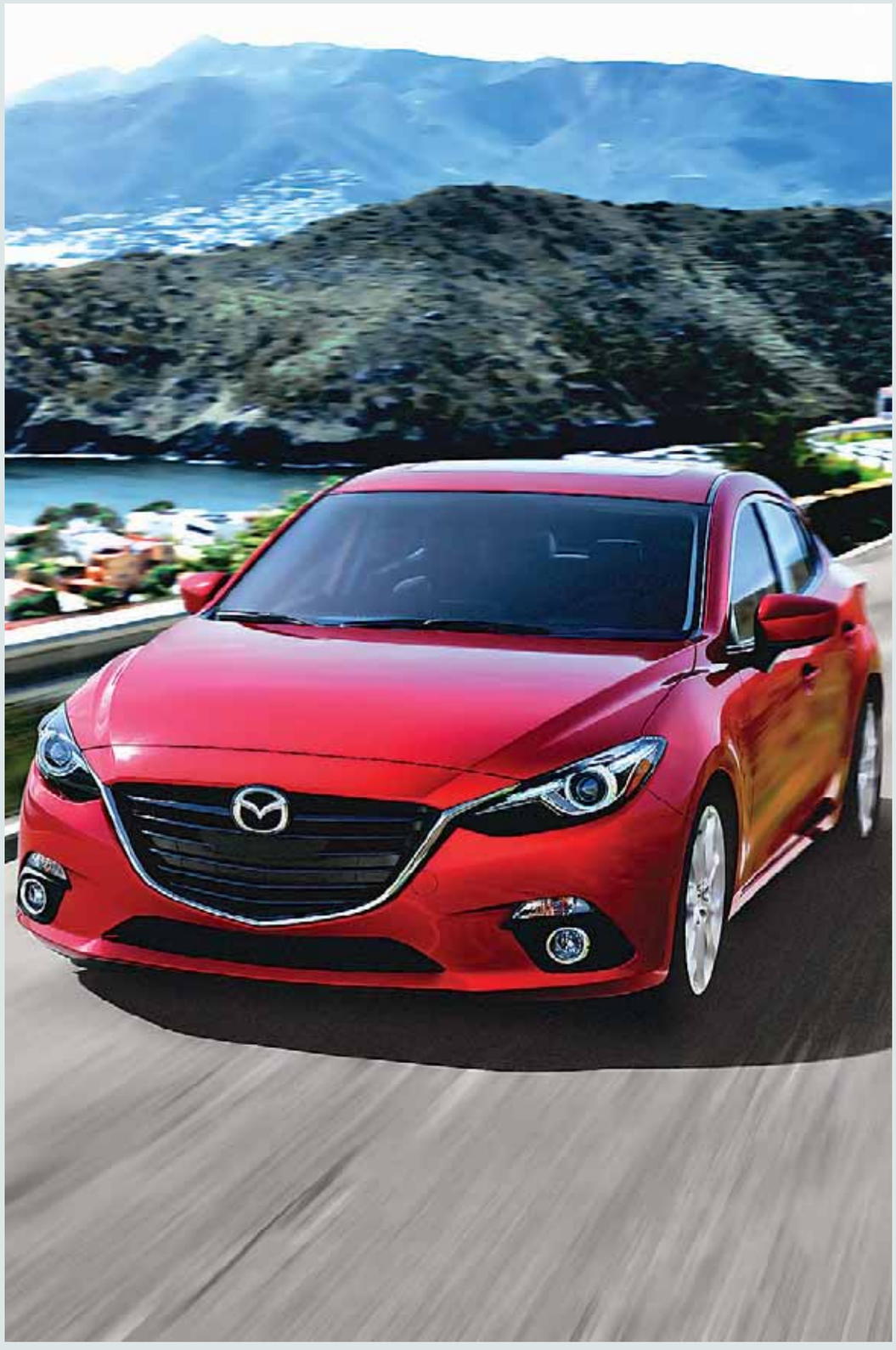
Information on all vote scores, their weighting, as well as tools to compare models across varying categories and years, is available as a free consumer resource at ajac.ca.

The best new category winners were recently narrowed down to overall finalists — three for Car of the Year and three for Utility Vehicle of the Year.

The following is a closer look at the finalists and the scores that helped propel them into the final rounds of this year's awards program.

For more, see AS8.

CCOTY FINALIST: MAZDA 6
Category Win: Best new family car over $30,000
In a nutshell: The new Mazda 6 uses Skyactiv technology for high-efficiency performance, while the upscale cabin and body styling help the 6 hit more than its weight in the segment. Top levels of high-tech and advanced powertrain engineering are on board.
Standout scores: Journalists assigned the Mazda 6 the highest scores in its category for interior and exterior styling, quality, ergonomics, and for steering, handling and braking feel. Subjective value was tops in the category as well.
Notes: Fuel efficiency, upscale styling, overall value and fun-factor are valued by many family sedan shoppers — and the Mazda 6 more than delivers on these fronts.



CCOTY FINALIST: MAZDA 3
Category win: Best new small car under $21,000
In a nutshell: The latest Mazda 3 combines styling, handling, technology and advanced powertrain engineering typical of pricier models into a highly competitive package.
Standout scores: The Mazda 3's overall score dusted the competition by 30 points, with top marks assigned for interior and exterior style, quality, ergonomics, feature content and overall value. Scores for performance, steering, handling, braking and acceleration were all well ahead of the pack, too.
Notes: The Mazda 3 competes in one of the most competitive market segments in Canada — and it's a standout choice for a shopper after fun-to-drive factor, fuel efficiency, and the latest in high-tech.

HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE

- **5 YEAR** COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY††
- **5 YEAR** LEASING WITH BI-WEEKLY PAYMENTS
- **5 YEAR 0%** FINANCING AVAILABLE

ON SELECT MODELS

2014'S WITH BI-WEEKLY LEASING

HWY: 7.3L/100 KM
CITY: 10.2L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown

HWY: 7.2L/100 KM
CITY: 10.0L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown

2014 SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD

■ HEATED FRONT SEATS ■ AM/FM/XM™/CD/MP3 6-SPEAKER AUDIO SYSTEM W/ AUX/USB JACKS ■ BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM ■ STABILITY MANAGEMENT WITH ESC AND TRACTION CONTROL

5 YEAR LEASE

$159 BI-WEEKLY WITH $2,495 DOWN AT 3.9%† FOR 60 MONTHS

THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE
5 YEAR LEASE | 5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

2014 ACCENT 4-DR L

■ 1.6L GASOLINE DIRECT INJECTION ENGINE ■ AM/FM/CD/MP3/USB/IPOD® AUDIO SYSTEM ■ POWER DOOR LOCKS ■ FRONT, SIDE AND CURTAIN AIRBAGS

5 YEAR LEASE

$83 BI-WEEKLY AT 0.9%† FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE
5 YEAR LEASE | 5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

2014 TUCSON GL

■ HEATED FRONT SEATS ■ EZ LANE CHANGE ASSIST ■ IPOD®/USB/MP3 AUXILARY INPUT JACKS ■ INTEGRATED BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM ■ LED HEADLIGHT ACCENT W/ LED DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS

5 YEAR LEASE

$129 BI-WEEKLY WITH $1,895 DOWN AT 2.9%† FOR 60 MONTHS

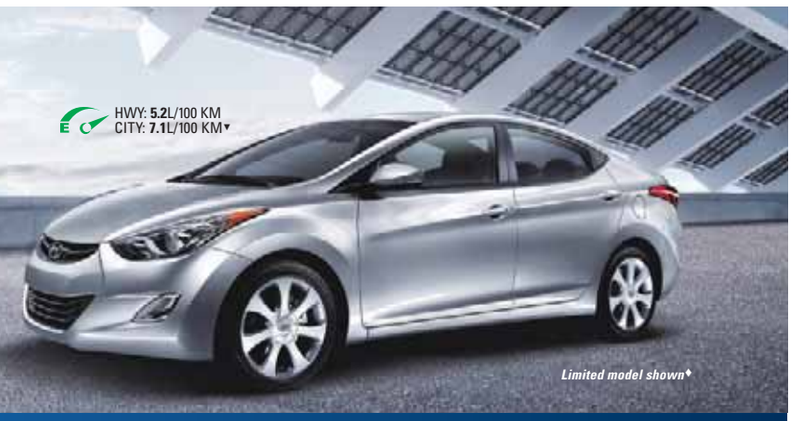
THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE
5 YEAR LEASE | 5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

GET UP TO $5,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT 2013 MODELS (AMOUNT SHOWN ON 2013 SONATA HYBRID)

2013 ELANTRA L

OWN IT FOR $12,995

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM▼



Limited model shown♦

ALL-IN PRICING
INCLUDES PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ, FEES, DELIVERY & DESTINATION. PLUS HST.

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

5 YEAR WARRANTY
5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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Cars from the golden age of Chrysler's muscle cars will be showcased on the 700 Level, including Richard Petty's No. 43 Superbird race car, the first time it has been shown outside of Petty's museum in 25 years. CONTRIBUTED

Hyundai Elantra

Chrysler 200

The Jaguar C-X17 concept could eventually become Jaguar's first crossover. CONTRIBUTED

Kia Cadenza

Volkswagen Beetle

Continued from AS3

Look for the all-new 2015 versions of the Audi S3 and S8, Acura TLX, Chrysler 200, Ford F-150, Honda Fit, and Volkswagen Golf.

Some automakers will also bring concept cars to the show, so look for the Ford Edge, which hints at what the next generation version of this Canadian-built SUV could be, the Jaguar C-X17, which could eventually become Jaguar's first crossover, the two-door Kia provo, the Lexus LF-LC two-door concept hybrid, and the Nissan Sentra NISMO Concept, a high-performance version of Nissan's compact sedan.

Everything new is old again

Every old car was once a new model, and probably had its debut at an auto show just like this one. The show pays homage to the cars of yesteryear with the Cruise Nationals, Chrysler's muscle cars, and a tribute to MG's anniversary.

The Cruise Nationals celebrate cruise nights, the popular weekly events that feature street-driven antiques and hot rods that are often built or restored by their owners. Ten cars are on display from this year's event, including the three current show champions, while a second display of 16 winners from previous years marks the event's 10th anniversary, all on the 700 Level.

Cars from the golden age of Chrysler's muscle cars will be showcased on the 700 Level, including Richard Petty's No. 43 Superbird race car, the first time it has been shown outside of Petty's museum in 25 years. You will also find a rare 1964 Chrysler 300 Silver Edition, a 1971 Dodge Super Bee with factory Hemi engine, and several others. And on the 800 Level, look for a display of MG sports cars to celebrate the British marque's 90th anniversary.

Hungry? Meals are on wheels

Instead of the usual restaurant-style food court, this year's auto show puts its meals on wheels with a variety of food trucks on the 800 Level. Look for such Toronto specialties as pulled pork from Hank Daddy's BBQ, hotdogs from Pinky's Steamies, and Mexican favourites from The Gourmet Gringos.

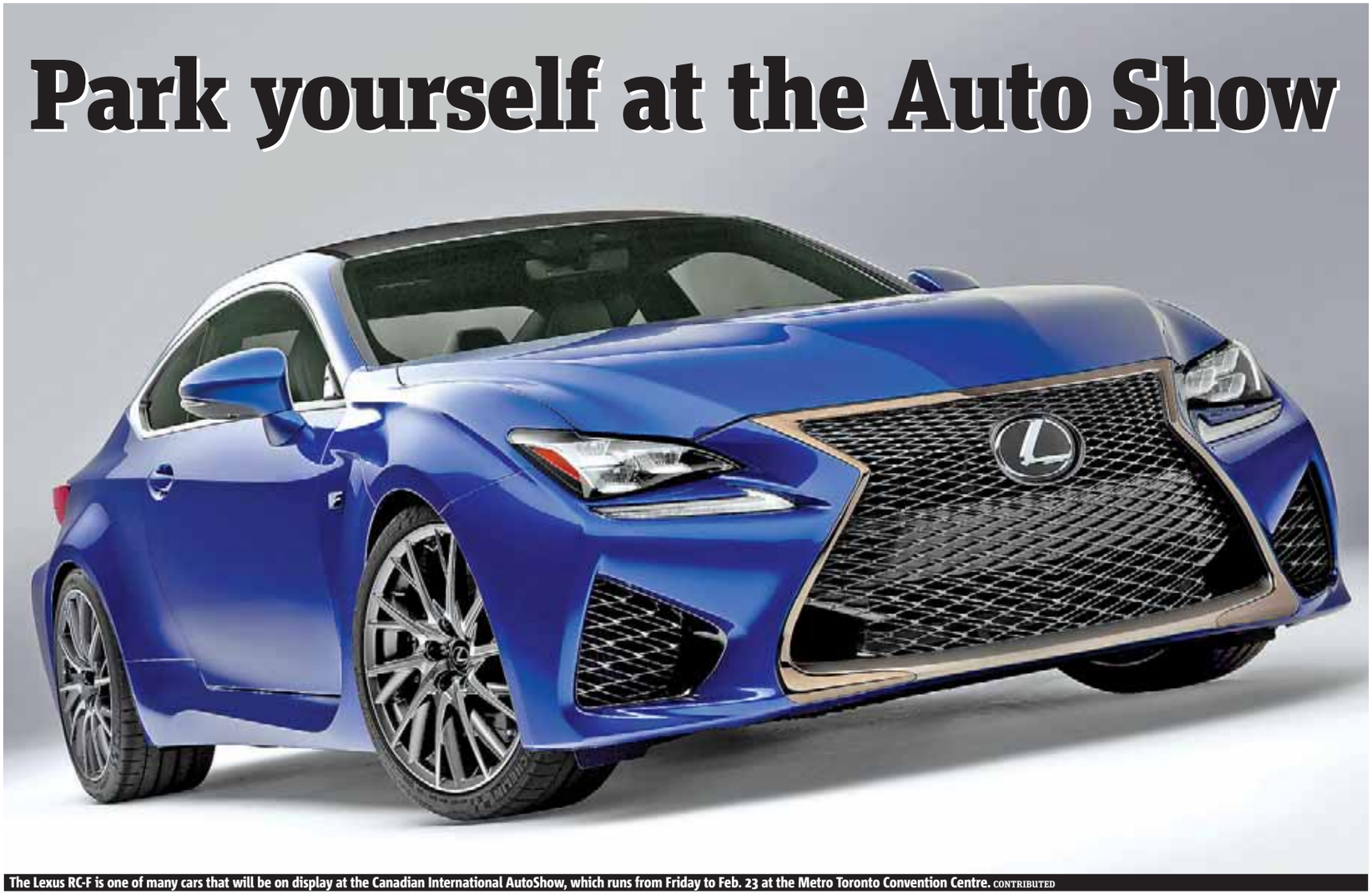
Go down a level

Don't forget to go down the escalators just inside the Front Street entrance to the 100 Level. There, you will find the Auto Exotica exhibit, featuring jaw-dropping machines from companies such as Lamborghini, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Rolls-Royce, and Lotus. Then head down the hall to see Canadian Tire's tribute to race driver Ron Fellows, whose long list of accomplishments includes being the only Canadian to win the overall 24 Hours of Daytona.

Contests

- There are all kinds of contests you can enter at the show, so don't forget to bring a pen. You could win $40,000 toward a new vehicle from the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association, a $500 gas card from Allstate Insurance, free gas for a year from CAA, a new Lincoln Hybrid from the Toronto Area Lincoln Dealers, and gas, a down payment on a car, or tires from TD.

Park yourself at the Auto Show



The Lexus RC-F is one of many cars that will be on display at the Canadian International AutoShow, which runs from Friday to Feb. 23 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. CONTRIBUTED

Cars, cars, cars. Massive showcase appeals to all tastes

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

The Canadian International AutoShow is the perfect opportunity to see all the models from the major auto manufacturers in one place, whether you are shopping for a new vehicle or you just love to look at cars.

But this massive show is more than that. You will also find classic cars and sport compacts, exotic sports cars, vendors selling all types of cool and useful stuff, contests and giveaways, and information on the latest automotive technology and connectivity systems, all included in one admission price. Find maps, information, and online ticket sales at AutoShow.ca.

Where, when, and how much

The show is being held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre at 255 Front St. W. It begins Friday and runs through to Feb. 23, and is open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., except Friday, when it opens at noon, and Feb. 23, when it closes at 6 p.m.

Tickets are $23 for adults, and $7 for children ages 7-12 (six and younger get in free). A two-day pass is $34, while a family pass for two adults and two children (7-12) is $45. Avoid lineups and save 10 per cent by buying and printing your tickets online at AutoShow.ca. On Feb. 14 and 21, those 60 and older pay just $11 at the door.

Attendance is usually lightest on the weekdays, especially around dinner, and heavier on the weekends. The show is usually packed on Family Day (Feb. 17), so if you aren't comfortable with crowds, pick another day to attend.

GMC Acadia

Nissan Sentra

Getting around the show

The Convention Centre contains two main buildings, the North and South halls, connected by walkways and escalators — the only place in Toronto big enough to hold this massive show. The centre's floors are numbered, starting with the 100 Level at Front Street, to the 800 Level at the bottom.

You can walk between the two halls, or take the free shuttle (including a wheelchair accessible one) that runs continuously between them. The shuttle stops at the Front Street entrance, inside the 800 Level near the new car exhibits, and at the Bremner Boulevard entrance (near the woodpecker statue), where you can take the escalator down to the classic cars and vendors on the 600 and 700 levels.

Volkswagen Playcare Centre

If your children are too young to appreciate the show, or they get bored halfway through, you can "park" them at the Volkswagen Children's Playcare Centre on the 600 Level. It's free, courtesy of Volkswagen, and staffed by certified childcare providers.

Cars, cars, cars

Manufacturers will have almost all of their current models in their displays, but you will also find a few that have yet to go on sale, which will be the first time they will been seen in Canada.

For more, see AS4.

How to get there

- Public transit is your best bet. Take the TTC or GO Transit to Union Station and walk across the SkyWalk to the show. If you drive, you are best to arrive early since the Convention Centre parking garage on Bremner Boulevard usually fills up by noon. Otherwise, you will have to look for municipal or private lots nearby.

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MYYEAR

NISSAN
Innovation that excites

TAKE THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

GET AN ADDITIONAL
$750*
ON TOP OF CURRENT OFFERS
$750 BONUS CASH INCLUDED IN ADVERTISED OFFERS ON SELECT MODELS

LIMITED TIME AUTOSHOW CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 14TH-23RD ONLY

AT A DEALERSHIP NEAR YOU

2014 JUKE*
FINANCE FROM **0%** APR FOR UP TO **24** MONTHS ON SELECT NEW 2014 JUKE MODELS[1]
PER MONTH

AND GET $1,500
IN ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS ON 2014 JUKE SL MODELS

PLUS GET $750*
NISSAN FINANCE CASH ON ALL 2014 JUKE MODELS

2014 SENTRA
LEASE FROM **$70** SEMI-MONTHLY* AT **0%** APR PER MONTH
FOR **39** MONTHS **$0** DOWN
FREIGHT AND FEES INCLUDED

2014 ALTIMA
LEASE FROM **$112** SEMI-MONTHLY* AT **0%** APR PER MONTH
FOR **60** MONTHS **$999** DOWN
FREIGHT AND FEES INCLUDED

2014 VERSA NOTE
LEASE FROM **$59** SEMI-MONTHLY* AT **0%** APR PER MONTH
FOR **39** MONTHS **$0** DOWN
FREIGHT AND FEES INCLUDED

OFFERS END FEBRUARY 23RD. FIND YOURS AT **CHOOSENISSAN.CA** OR YOUR LOCAL RETAILER

$750 Nissan Finance Cash is stackable and is available for qualifying retail customers on the lease or finance of any new 2014 Versa Note/Sentra/Altima Sedan/Juke models through Nissan Finance and is deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Offer is not available for cash purchases buyers. Qualifying customers must be approved to lease or finance through Nissan Finance. Offer available from Feb. 14-23, 2014. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Representative semi-monthly lease offer based on new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B5RG54 AA00), manual transmission/2014 Sentra 1.8 S (C4LG54 AA00), manual transmission/2014 Altima Sedan 2.5 (T4LG14 AA00), CVT transmission 0%/0%/0% lease APR for a 39/39/60 month term equals 78/78/120 semi-monthly payments of $59/$70/$112 with $0/$0/$999 down payment, and $0 security deposit. First semi-monthly payment, down payment and $0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $4,640/$5,440/$14,462. Conditions apply $950/$950 NF Lease Cash included in advertised price, applicable only on 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B5RG54 AA00), manual transmission/Sentra 1.8 S (C4LG54 AA00), manual transmission through subvented lease through Nissan Finance. $200/$400 dealer participation included and available only on 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B5RG54 AA00), manual transmission/Sentra 1.8 S (C4LG54 AA00), manual transmission. This offer is only available on lease offers of an 39 month term only and cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. [1]The 0% purchase financing for up to 24 months offer is available with the purchase of select new 2014 Juke* models. Representative finance example based on a new 2014 Juke SL AWD (N5XT14 LN00), CVT transmission with a selling price of $29,257, financed at 0% APR for 24 months, equals 52 bi-weekly payments of $524 with $1,999 down payment. Total cost of borrowing is $0 or a total obligation of $29,257. $1,500 NF Finance Cash is included in the above selling price and only applicable on the 2014 Juke SL models available only with subvented loan rates through Nissan Finance from Feb 14-23, 2014. The discount will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and can be combined with special finance rates only through Nissan Finance. Conditions apply. **[1]Advertised offers include additional stackable $750 // $750 // $750 // $750 Nissan Finance Cash. *Models shown $20,719/$21,699/$34,707/$31,507 Selling Price for a new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 SL Tech (B5TG14 NA00), Xtronic CVT® transmission/Sentra 1.8 SR (C4SG14 AA00), CVT transmission/2014 Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NW00), CVT transmission/2014 Juke SL AWD (N5XT14 LN10), CVT transmission. **Freight and PDE charges ($1,567/$1,567/$1,575/$1,695), air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, certain fees (ON: $5 OMVIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between Feb. 14-23rd, 2014.

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CONCEPT CARS, WHAT'S NEW & CANADIAN CAR OF THE YEAR

FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES

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START YOUR ENGINES

The Canadian International AutoShow
Feb. 14-23, Metro Toronto Convention Centre